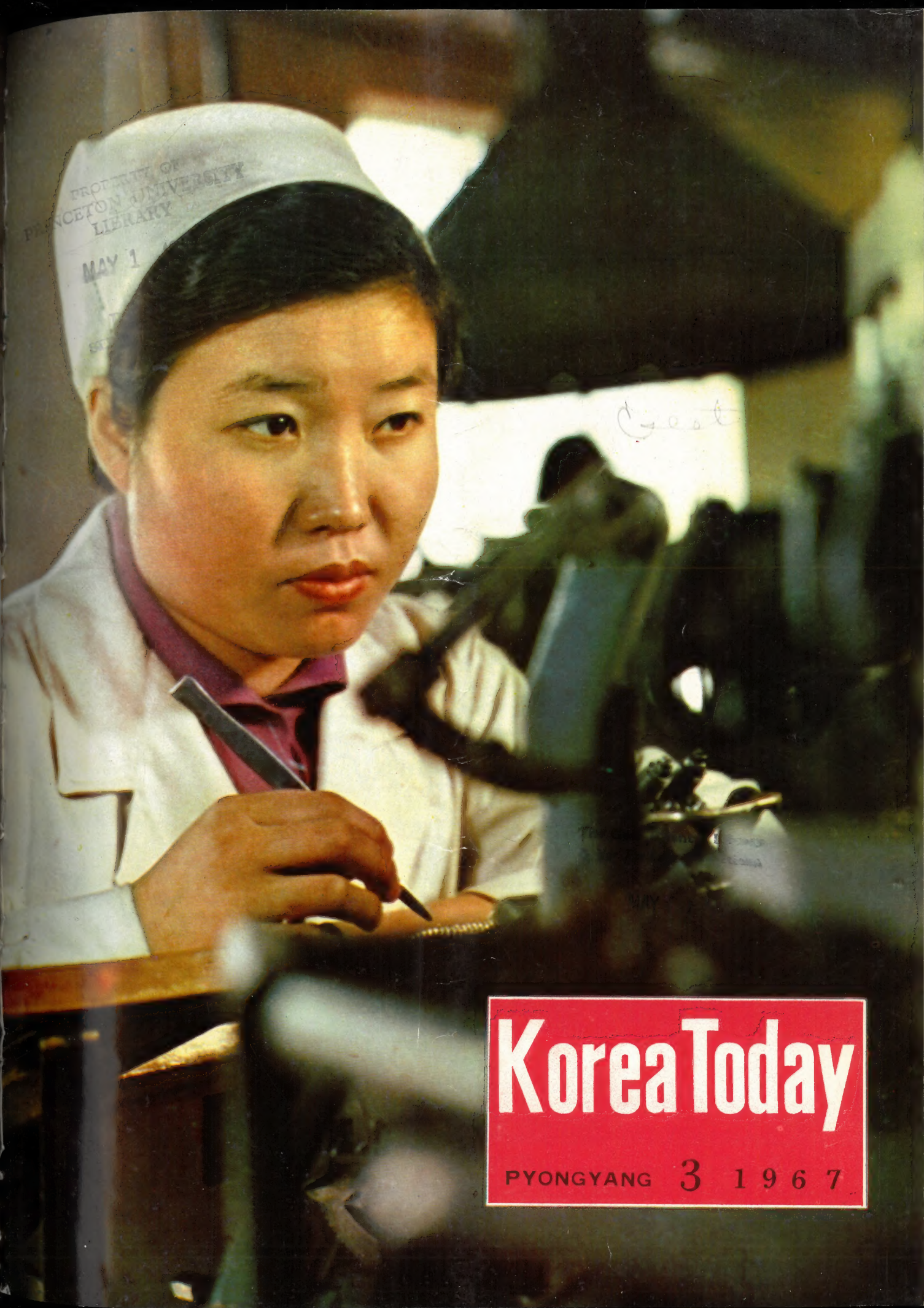


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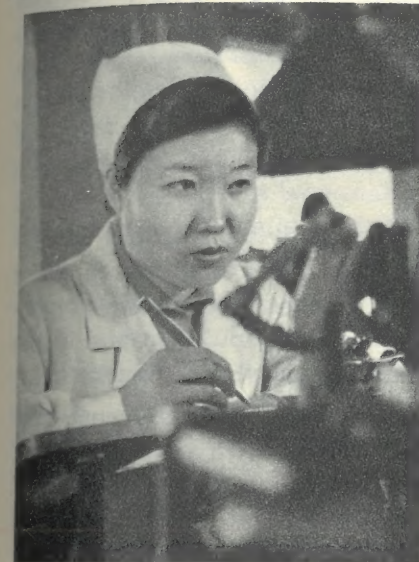
Korea Today

PYONGYANG 3 1967



A view of the spinning shop of the Shineuijoo Chemical Fibre Mill

Korea Today



FRONT COVER: Young technician Kim Sook Ja is a model worker at the Pyongyang electric bulb plant. She came to the factory five years ago after finishing a higher technical school. During these years she has made many valuable suggestions on the making of light bulbs. She finished her yearly quotas 40 days ahead of schedule last year. Now she is endeavouring to better the quality of products and improve the work methods

Photo by Choi Ryong

BACK COVER: The first sign of spring on the Daidong River

Photo by Kim Bong Woon

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1967

No. 130

Printed in the Democratic
People's Republic of Korea

GREAT EASTERN BOOK CO.
GEBOOKS
P. O. BOX 3427, HONG KONG

MONTHLY JOURNAL
PUBLISHED BY THE
FOREIGN LANGUAGES PUBLISHING HOUSE

Pyongyang

CONTENTS

A Great Step in Popular Education	2
Women and Place of Work KIM SUNG HEUI	4
Social Role of the Korean Women	7
My Life, Past and Present KANG JOON KOOK	8
Young Generation on a Farm JUN WOON BONG	10
Nurseries	12
"Red Flag" Electric Locomotive RI CHAN SOON	14
40 Per Cent of Income Goes for Taxes	15
Ri Je Soon, a Revolutionary HU HANG JONG	16
A Historical Tale: Ron Kai	19
Chongsukjung	20
A Short Story: A Cigarette Holder (2) SUL JOO YONG	21
A New Film: "A Jolly Stage"	29
On Korea's Fine Arts	30
The Saccharin Case	32
The Zimbabwe Day	33
Is It a "U.N. Army"?	34
"Radio Letter"	36
A Good Lesson to Small Nations	37
M. MOSTAFA GHONEIM	37
Working Women of South Korea	39
And Another Intrigue	40
Washington's Unsuccessful Offensive	41
The World Is With the Vietnamese	42
U.S. Tools in Middle and Near East	45
A Factory Art Circle	46
The 1894 Peasant War RIM KWANG CHUL	48
Full Back Shin Yung Kyoo KANG CHUL GOO	50
Korea's Natural Resources	52
Stamps of Korea	52

A GREAT STEP IN POPULAR EDUCATION

ON last November 24, the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea passed a law on the universal nine-year compulsory technical education, which will come into effect on April 1, 1967.

The law foresees a nine-year compulsory schooling for the country's younger generation, that is, all the boys and girls between the ages of seven and sixteen will attend the four-year primary school and five-year middle school. Of course, all the schooling will be done at the state-run regular schools and without charge.

To bring up the rising generation into competent workers for the new society and into able country builders is the most important work in building up a prosperous modern country. Consequently, the state always has put education before everything else, and "The best for the children" has been the motto of the nation.

Soon after the country's liberation the people's government liquidated racial and class inequality in education, an aftermath of Japanese rule, and established a popular educational system to provide everyone with all conditions for learning. Even in the difficult war time (1950-1953) all schools went on regularly. And when hostilities ended, the state took steps to build schools first in the hard days of the postwar rehabilitation.

Compulsory primary education was enforced in 1956, three years after the ceasefire, which was followed by compulsory middle schooling in 1958.

In North Korea there were only a few middle schools before liberation. Not a single university was to be found. But today it boasts of 9,165 schools for common education and 98 institutes of higher learning, where some 2.6 million pu-

pils and students are studying; the total university enrolment is 156,000. North Korea ranks among the highest in the world in the proportion of students to the population and in the government fund earmarked for education.

On top of these regular schools, spare-time schools are to be found in town and the country, which have already turned out numbers of trained personnel. Then the adult educational programme too has been enforced on an extensive scale, aiming at equipping the working people with secondary education and with more than one skill.

Based on these results attained in the popular education, in 1961 the Government decided to go over to the nine-year compulsory technical education by 1967.

Since then all preparations have been made energetically for it—a grand programme which will play an important role in implementing the cultural revolution.

The new nine-year compulsory education has been welcomed most enthusiastically by the whole nation praising it as an epoch-making step in popular education. From now on, everyone will receive a secondary school education at the expense of the state and equip himself with a new set of moral code. Indeed, this is a great advance in the country's educational system. It will give a fuller and better satisfaction to all parents who could not send their children to school when they groaned under Japanese colonial rule and when poverty had a firm grip on them.

With the enforcement of the nine-year compulsory technical education, Korea will enter a new stage in the growth of its educational system. According to the new law, the existing three-year middle school and two-year tech-

nical school will be merged into a new five-year middle school. Hitherto, a seven-year compulsory education has been in force which includes the four-year primary school and the three-year middle school.

Under the new nine-year schooling programme, through the four-year primary school and the five-year middle school courses the secondary general education will be completed in the main while polytechnical education be given. Moreover, under the law the two-year high schools will be set up for middle school graduates, while the present two-year higher technical school course will be extended to three to four years.

The high school is a secondary school for general education and for the second stage of polytechnical education. Middle school graduates can advance to the higher technical school which will specialize in training technicians and junior-grade specialists. And the graduates of these schools will proceed to the university.

The spare-time secondary education will also undergo partial changes. In order that the working people may receive an adequate secondary technical education while on the job, the courses of the factory higher technical school and the evening and correspondence courses of the higher technical school will be lengthened to cover three to four years. The existing two-year factory technical school will be discontinued.

Normal education will also be modified to fit in with the new educational system. Three-year normal schools will come into being where five-year middle school graduates will be trained into kindergarten teachers; the four-year teachers' college will train middle school graduates into primary school teachers. Teachers of middle schools, high schools, and higher technical schools will be prepared at the four to five year normal college.

Besides them, the law provides for the founding of the vocational schools to train middle school graduates into skilled workers.

It is to be noted in the reorganized popular educational system that the term of the middle school, the first stage of secondary education, is long and the term of the high school, the second stage, is short, and that the secondary general education is to be completed in the main at the middle school under the new nine-year

compulsory education. This will greatly strengthen the secondary education, the core of popular education, and will make it possible for those middle school graduates, who start to work, to complete the secondary education through self-study, correspondence course, or by some other way.

The new popular educational system is also marked with the fact that all the schools for the secondary education, both the middle school and the high school, combine general education with technical education according to the curriculum of the respective schools so as to bring up the younger generation into able workers. In this way the level of general education and technological knowledge of the students will be raised while improving the standard of higher education and rapidly developing science and technology for the country.

To provide the free compulsory technical education the Government will use an enormous amount of money and material.

The Government has spent a colossal sum of fund to build educational institutions and provided scholarships to many higher technical school students and all university students.

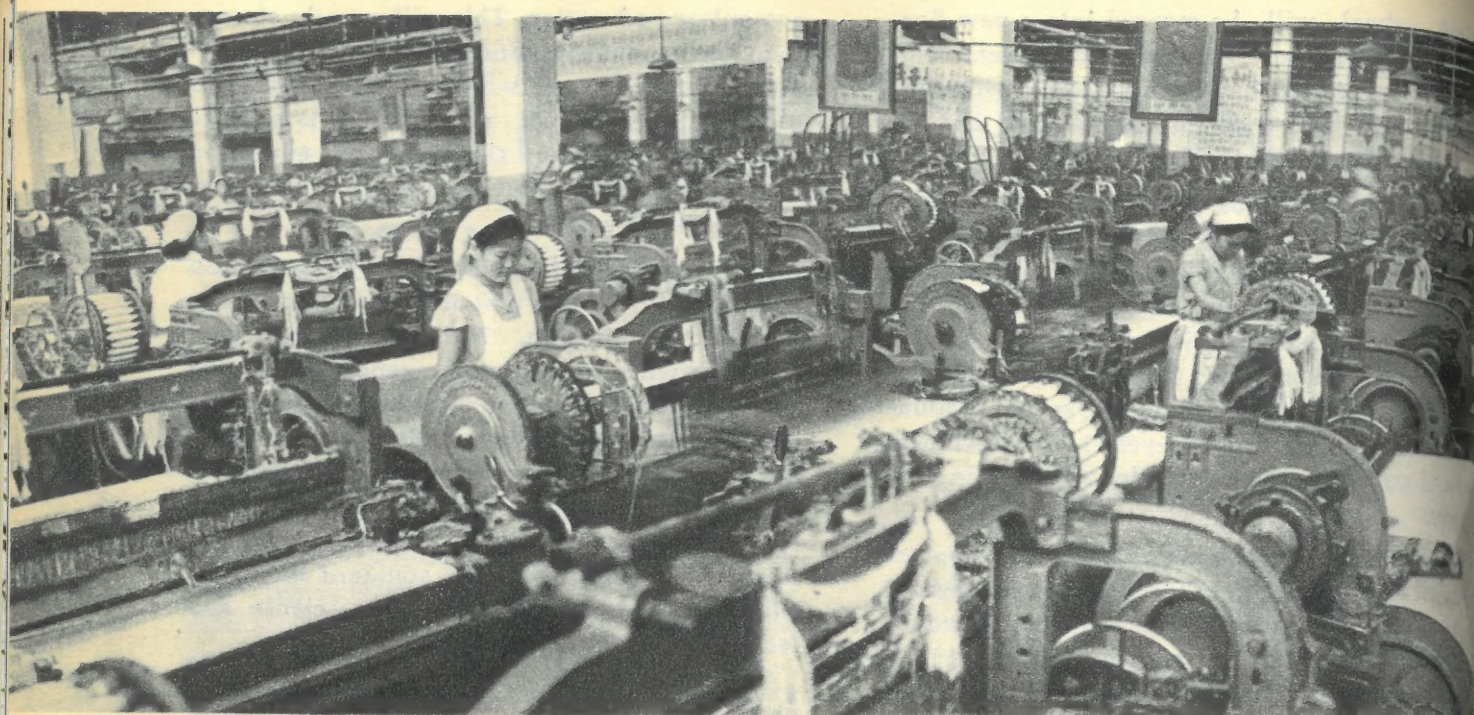
In 1959 tuition was abolished in all schools. Uniforms, textbooks and school supplies are issued gratis or at nominal charges, and facilities and expenses for the students' cultural life are borne by the state, too.

Consequently, all pupils and students of North Korea are studying without any worries thanks to the state's warm solicitude.

But a diametrically different picture is found in South Korea under U.S. colonial rule. Numberless boys and girls cannot go to school. Two million school-age children are out of school and it is not rare to see students give up schooling because they cannot pay school fees.

The enforcement of universal nine-year compulsory technical education, one of the programmatic tasks of the cultural revolution in our country, is a national event of far-reaching significance. Then the South Korean people who suffer untold hardships will see in it a bright future for education of their children.

The advance in popular education will enable the Korean people to fully display their talents and energy and widely introduce results of modern science and technology into production, thus doubling the might of the country's independent national economy.



At the weaving shop

WOMEN AND PLACE OF WORK

KIM SUNG HEUI

ON the Daidong flowing through the heart of Pyongyang, in a willow-covered compound stands the Pyongyang Textile Mill, one of the major textile mills in the country.

Recently I visited the factory. I did so because I wanted to tell our readers, in greeting the March 8 International Women's Day, about the work and life of the workers of this mill, which is run by women.

Factory Run by Women

As is the case with most of

the light industrial factories, the Pyongyang Textile Mill is staffed almost entirely with women, from the management to workers, clerks, engineers... Of course, all its social organizations, the trade union included, are run by women. Most of the teachers of the technical school, the higher technical school, and the industrial college in the factory are women. At present there are some 700 trained personnel—engineers and technicians—most of them are again women. In short, this factory is managed exclusively by women.

Volumes of high-quality fa-

brics, printed and plain, come from this factory.

Pak Keum Ok has been with the mill for 18 years and she is known as a pioneer in the multi-loom movement. She devised a new working method, which doubled the output, and finished her quotas under the postwar 3-year and the 5-year plans one year and a half and two years respectively ahead of schedule. The state awarded her the title of Labour Heroine, the highest honour in our country. And the people elected her a deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly.

Now there are four Labour

Heroines including her in the mill and over thousand have been decorated by the Government. There are also two women deputies to local People's Assemblies.

Kim Won Ryul is an engineer who has worked for 16 years at the factory; she stayed with the factory through the war against the U.S. aggressors. Under the enemy's fierce air raids she and other workers removed to a safer place scores of looms and spindles. After the armistice the machines were rehabilitated and improved. In the meantime she made also no mean contribution to training many work-team leaders, engineers, technicians, and skilled workwomen. She is now head of the spinning workshop which has won the title of "Chullima Youth Workshop."

With Ease of Mind

The factory pays deep attention to the working women's health.

Every workshop is fitted with facilities for adjusting the daylight, temperature, moisture, and air in addition to all necessary installations for the comfort of the women workers.

There is also a 300-bed hospital in the factory, which has many departments including obstetrics. It goes without saying all doctors do their utmost to look after the health of the workers.

Special facilities are provided for working mothers. Not so far from their workshops in sunny spots are five day nurseries, where over 1,800 children are being taken care of. Mothers are allowed to nurse the babies during the working hours.

Generally speaking, a pre-

school age child is to go to the kindergarten in the neighbourhood. But he can be enrolled in the factory kindergarten in case there is no one to look after him at home or the mother prefers to having him at the factory kindergarten. At present the factory kindergarten accommodates some 600 children.

Nearby in a scenic spot stands a two-storied children's ward surrounded by big trees. When children get sick they are hospitalized here, their mothers

can come and stay with them if need be. Of course there is no charge for all the medical treatment including hospitalization.

Kim Jung Soon is a mother of five children; she has been with the mill for the past 17 years. She is a weaver. All her children were taken care of at the day nursery and the kindergarten of the factory. The elder children are now in the primary and middle schools. And she is a model worker, always overfulfilling her yearly quotas.

The girls share what they know





At the hospital attached to the mill

Last year the Government decreed that the workday be shortened for mothers who are engaged in physical labour and have more than three children under 13. Now their workday is 6 hours a day, not 8 hours. In spite of the shorter workday



Kindergarteners perform on the Kayageum (a traditional Korean stringed instrument)

they are entitled to the same privileges—food grain, uniforms, and other necessary supplies as well as social security, pensions, paid maternity leave and annual vacation. In case the mother is the breadwinner for the family, she will draw the same pay as when she worked for 8 hours. This is an expression of the profound care the state is paying for the working mothers. Now the mothers have more time for housekeeping and their children.

There are a laundry, a tailor's shop, a beauty parlour, repair shops of every kind, a grocery, a restaurant and others in the factory compound, which make things easier for the women workers. Prices and charges are most reasonable for the employees. In the morning as they report to work they can leave orders with stores and they just pick up whatever they wanted in the evening when they go home.

Colourful Cultural Programme

The Pyongyang Textile Mill

Future city planners



arranges physical culture programme for its women and girls; then art circles are very active.

The physical culture guidance committee of the factory headed by the assistant manager has branches in every workteam to popularize sports. Callisthenics and various exercises and sports events are held regularly—as a matter of fact, the mill boasts of many good athletes and champions. At the athletic sports meet of the light industry workers held in Pyongyang last year the champions of this factory won the first place both in ten individual events and in the team points.

There are two clubs in the factory which can accommodate 800 each. Movies are shown every night at one of them. And ten professional art instructors are attached to the clubs to guide the circle activities of the women workers. There are regularly inter-workshop art contests. On these occasions even cadres of the factory management and workshop leaders appear on the stage.

Not a few girls who showed extraordinary talent became professionals; a former spinner So Nam Ho is now a member of the Pyongyang Song and Dance Troupe. She is a singer. Many others became professional singers, dancers, and actresses. In addition, there are many who write poems, stories, plays and other works; many of their writings appeared in newspapers and magazines.

Thus women and girls of the Pyongyang Textile Mill, like work-women of all other fields, are working and studying. Theirs is a good life. And they fulfil their production assignments splendidly.

Social Role of the Korean Women

TODAY in Korea women standing on the same footing with men and working in all branches, political economic, and cultural, are playing an important role in the country's socialist construction.

There are 25,000 women deputies to the people's assemblies at all levels including the Supreme People's Assembly, the highest power organ in D.P.R.K.

Thirty-five women are deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly; women take up 48 per cent of the entire working people; they run almost exclusively light industry and local industry.

Sixty-nine women who rendered great exploits in the Patriotic War of Liberation and in the postwar rehabilitation and reconstruction have been made Heroines of the Republic and Labour Heroines, the highest honour in the country, and about 52,600 have been decorated by the Government.

Thanks to the compulsory educational system all children go to school. The number of women college graduates after liberation runs into tens of thousands. Many women hold the Degree of Doctor in Engineering, Biology, Medicine, and there are some 70,000 women Masters, technicians and experts. Also many women hold the title of People's and Merited Actress, People's and Merited Athlete, Merited Teacher, Merited Stock-breeder, and other honourable titles. Many big modern industrial establishments and co-operative farms are run by women.

The Government pays deep concern to fully ensure taking part in social activities to women. During the past ten years the number of day nurseries and kindergartens increased 83 and 64 times respectively. About 70 per cent of all the infants and about 60 per cent of the pre-school age children are being taken care of at nurseries and kindergartens at the state expense. There are 130,000 nurses and kindergarten teachers and many doctors and medical nurses to help the children.

Last October the Government adopted decisions to shorten the workday to six hours from the present eight for the working mothers with three or more children under 13 years of age. Despite the shorter workday, the working mothers are entitled as before to various benefits provided by the State—a 77-day maternity leave and 14-day annual vacation with pay and pension. And if she is the only breadwinner in the family, she draws the same pay as when she worked eight hours a day.

Inspired by the Government's care the women are working for the country's socialist construction with a fresh zeal, displaying their skills and creative energies to the full.



MY LIFE, PAST AND PRESENT

+++++ ***** KANG JOON KOOK

WITH March comes spring, and a thaw has set in on the Anjoo Plain. This is my 61st March here.

Though spring comes round every year, every March is so inspiring to me as ever. It was in March 21 years ago that the law on land reform was issued which brought a new "spring"—a new life—on my life. I owned land for the first time in my life.

Now we are free from all taxation, too!

With the land reform, an end was put to the tenant system and miscellaneous levies, instead a low agricultural tax-in-kind was introduced. But that tax-in-kind, too, was abolished last year.

In the old world it was utterly impossible even to imagine for the peasants to become the masters of land and till the land free from all taxation.

Indeed this is a blessed society, and I feel my youth coming back to me. Many youngsters asked me to take it easy, but I tell them I am not ready for it as my heart is so attached to the earth. I cannot keep still when I think of my life, a bitter one, before the country's liberation.

My family lived in a hamlet called Songhak-ri and we were tenants for generations. Not a patch was under our name. All I took over from my father was

Spring comes to the fields of Songhak-ri

a shabby hut, for which I had to pay the landlord rent in kind. The house stood on the landlord's lot. From early childhood I worked with father in the field from dawn to dusk. We toiled and moiled but poverty would not leave us. Rent and a hundred and one taxes and charges hunted us, so much so there was hardly anything left for us even when the harvest was in. We had to do something to earn some even in winter, the slack season.

I still remember the day when I was married to the daughter of a hired hand of a neighbouring village. On that day, father was far from being glad. On the contrary, he sighed: "I have tilled for life, but I have nothing to give to you. I'd hate seeing you both have a slavish life as we did." Then he shed a few bitter tears.

I guess father knew what was in store for us—a bitter path. The country was still under Japanese rule and the feudal tenant system reigned the countryside. Like him I was chained to a landlord.

When I was 30, I happened to get hurt in the back and was bed-ridden. The landlord took away the land from us, and tenanted it to someone else. But there was little we could do about it, and starvation looked us straight in the face.

Kim So Wol, a poet of Korea in the days of Japanese imperialist rule, described the wishes of the peasants in one of his verses.

*We wish, we wish!
Even an inch of land to put*

the plough in...

This wish of ours had to wait until the country's liberation to come true. We set up the people's power and demanded land reform under the slogan: "Land to the tillers." And the North Korean Provisional People's Committee issued the law on land reform on March 5, 1946. What an inspiring event it was!

Some days later, in our village, too, a rural committee came into being to guide the land reform. Kang Jai Hong, our neighbour and a life-long tenant, was made chairman. The committee was composed of several poor peasants and hired hands.

Under the law they confiscated land and distributed it among the peasants who had little or no land. In this the size of the family and the number of its work-hands were taken into consideration. All confiscation and distribution were made without compensation. Kang Jai Yoon, who had been in a foreign country to search a job, was given land, too. There was a marker bearing my name standing in the centre of a big field. I just could not believe my eyes; I was speechless, and tears came to my eyes. Now I was sure my children would not be tenants.

When the first harvest was gathered in, we had enough grain to last us more than a year even after we paid the tax-in-kind to the State! I bought an ox. The next year I could build a comfortable house. In a few years there was no trace of



Grandpa Kang Joon Kook often tells the youngsters about the history of the village

poverty in the village.

But our happy life was interrupted. In June 1950 the U.S. aggressive army launched a war against North Korea. A grave crisis befell the people. The whole country rose up to fight against the invaders and we repulsed the enemy and defended the people's power.

When the armistice came after a bitter war of three years, everyone in our village rolled up his sleeves to set up an agricultural co-operative along the path the Government indicated. We were convinced that the line of agricultural co-operation was most correct, if the peasantry was to enjoy a better life. In two years all peasants—some 600 households—of Songhak-ri joined the Songhak Co-operative Farm.

Like all others in the village our life turned for the better. The year before last my family received 3.5 tons of grain and 700 won in cash.

Last year we earned more.

I, who was ill-treated and humiliated and did not know where the next meal would come from, am now a Deputy to the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Young Generation On a Farm

JUN WOON BONG

OUR destination was the Sangryong Co-operative Farm situated some 4 kilometres south of the seat of Kiljoo County in the northeastern area of Korea. On the way we fell into company with an old man, who told us pointing to a mountain in the distance:

"Do you see the mountain over there? It's Jangduksan. It is almost a wall to the village. And the whole mountain is an orchard. Eight years ago the young villagers reclaimed the hill and we will soon have a lot of fruits."

It was a terraced orchard stretching some 4 kilometres. It must have been a big job to make the mountain a fruit mountain. When I got to the village I looked up the young chaps who built the orchard.

"Youth Orchard"

Chairman Ri Yung Hak of the village organization of the Socialist Working Youth League of Korea was the one who told us that they call the mountain the "Youth Orchard" and there is a story written by Ri Kwang Hyun, one of the village youths. It is a sort of a history of the orchard.

According to Ri Yung Hak, it all started in 1959. That year a group of boys and girls, graduates of the Kiljoo Middle School, called on him. They wanted to remake the mountain into an orchard.

The question was formally presented to the farm managerial committee which readily agreed with them and it promised to help them with everything they would need—materials, money, and machines.

One day the youth league held a general meeting where everyone volunteered to undertake the project. One of them said: "Those who love their own native place are true patriots. Let's turn ours into a good place to live in. Our bright future lies in it." Soon the work began. They organized themselves into

several teams and competed with each other. Every day the whole hill bustled with some 500 boys and girls. Whenever there was a break they sang and danced to the accompaniment of the drums and accordions. They removed rocks and terraced the steep slopes. By the next spring they planted young trees on the area of some 250 *jungbo*.

There was heard a hum of voices outside and the youth league chairman said: "They are the very heroes of this story."

With them, we climbed up the mountain, the orchard. Every tree spoke of the tender attention of these young people.

"When we planted these trees, we pictured a forest of fruit trees that will give us so much fruit in a few years' time. It encouraged us boundlessly and how we worked!" Thus a girl told us. As they expect, the hill would become a big fruit mountain in the near future.

From the hill we could get a view of the whole farm. Pointing to the dyke of the Nam-dai-chun river winding through paddies, Ri Yung Hak explained:

Tractors will be going to the field



"Over there the dyke was rebuilt by our young people four years ago. Their zeal completed the whole project only in two months." We learned that the dyke is as high as 14 metres and the section rebuilt is some 4 kilometres long. So now the dyke is called "Youth Dyke."

For Technical Advance

According to Ri Yung Hak, there are many who passed the examinations for the license of junior agronomist, some are finishing the correspondence courses of the agricultural college; then there are some who passed several subjects in the qualification examinations for junior agronomist. The farm boasts of 44 technical personnel specializing in farming, pomiculture, stock-breeding, sericulture, architecture, irrigation, and farm machines. Among them are three workteam leaders and eleven deputy workteam leaders.

Besides them, some 60 young farmers take the correspondence courses of the agricultural college and higher agricultural school. The farm runs technical courses for those youngsters who are preparing for the agronomist examinations.

We met in the field a tractor driver named Huh Byung Jo who was carrying compost. To our question he answered that he got the driver's license a month ago. But Ri Yung Hak who was taking us around the farm said: "He started to drive last year."

Now most of the young farmers, he added, are learning how to drive a tractor or a lorry. Some of them have been sent to the tractor-driving school for more training.

Girls perform at the clubhouse of the farm



We asked Huh Byung Jo what he was studying. Before answering he produced a book from the driver's seat; the book was entitled "Physiological Botany." We were told that he was taking the correspondence courses of the agricultural college.

The young driver said: "Modern farming is practised in every corner of the countryside. Driving the tractor alone means little. So I began to learn agronomy."

At the Farm Club

The evening in the village was a sharp contrast with the daytime. The rumble of tractors and lorries died away. Spring was in the air, but the cold still lingered. Electric poles swished in the wind while merry tunes flowed out from the farm's club.

The co-op farm's art circles gave a performance at the club. We were invited to the club, too. The program was a colourful one—a chorus of 200 voices, instrumental music, sketches, folk songs, etc.

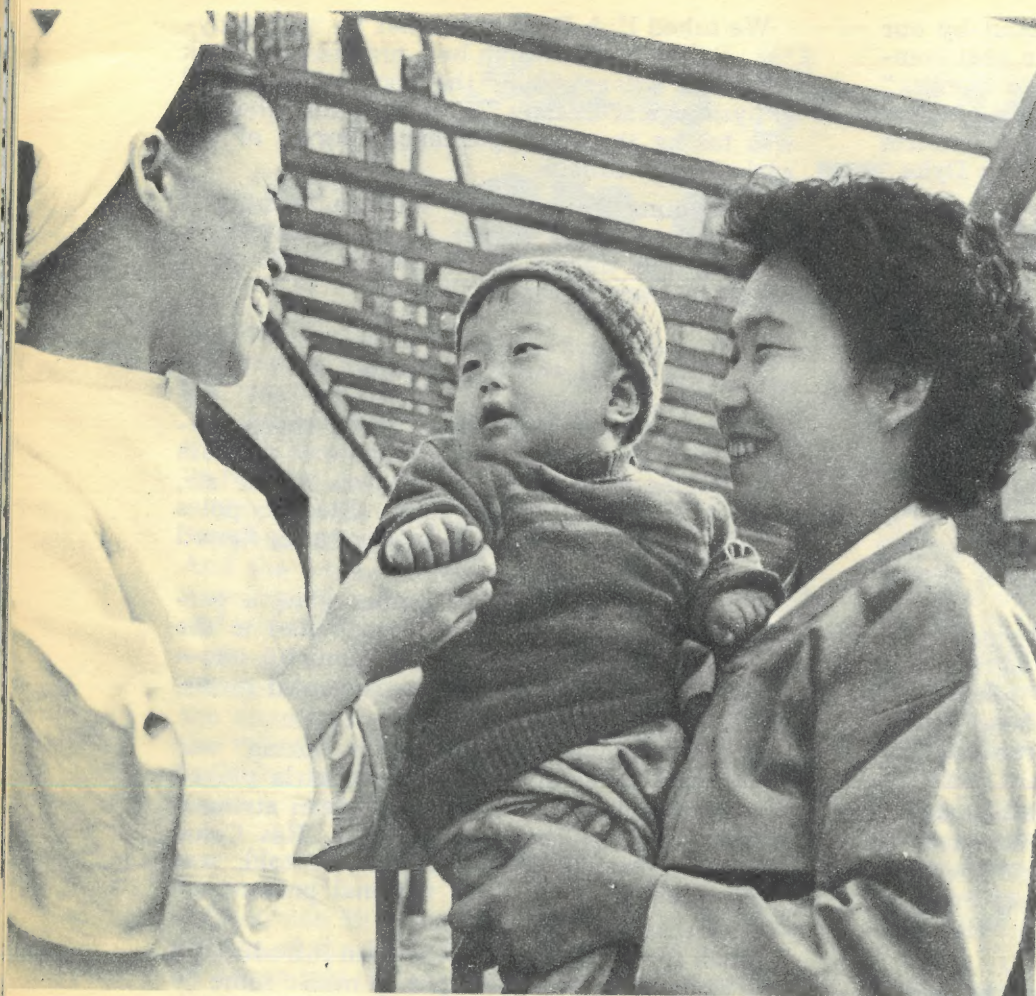
Song and dance "Let's Usher in Spring" was performed by twelve girls. Sixty girls played on the Kayakeum, traditional Korean stringed instrument, "A Bumper Harvest Has Come to Our Farm," which, we were told, was well received at the 1963 national peasant art contest.

Then the youth league chairman introduced a lad Yung Chul to us. He put to music some 50 verses written by young farmers. Some of his songs are very popular even with the aged and children.

This peasant-composer pointing to the accordion player on the stage told us that the accordion player wrote some 40 lyrics and verses, 20 of which had been already published. Thirty young people are good story and verse writers.

"Our youths," said Ri Yung Hak, "lead a worthy, happy life under the socialist system. And they want to express their life in various ways, I think. Who knows some day some of them may become good actors and poets?"

Though our stay in the farm was short, we saw the young people's optimism and love for the motherland and their revolutionary spirit. And they are devoting their all to building up a new rural community.



"Now, say 'bye to the nurse!" Mother comes for her baby

N*U*R*S*E*R*I*E*S

In our country nurseries are in all parts of the land for the convenience of working mothers and the health of infants.

Usually the nurseries and kindergartens are housed in the best buildings in the community, of the factory, and in the co-op farm, and the best care is given to the children. "The best for the children" is a motto in our society.

According to information supplied by the Nursery Bureau of the Ministry of Health,

there were 870 nurseries in the country in 1958, where 50,591 babies were taken care of. But the figures rose to 3,400 and 162,000 respectively in 1959.

Special significance was attached to building more nurseries in the countryside when socialist agricultural co-operation was completed, and women began to play a big role in agriculture. As a matter of fact, the nursery has become an indispensable part of the cultural construction in the farm villages. Now a day nursery is at-

tached to every workteam of the co-op farm.

Likewise, when a new government office, factory, mill, or a new residential district comes into being, there necessarily appear a day nursery and a kindergarten.

At present the number of day and week nurseries in the country is over 7,480 and some 890,000 infants are being taken care of.

Day and Week Nurseries

There are several kinds of nurseries to make things easier for the working mothers.

Let us have a look at the nurseries in the urban areas. In cities nurseries are usually to be found in the communities. These day nurseries are for the children of the working mothers whose work places have no children's homes of their own. Then day nurseries are to be found in factories and mills and other establishments; the co-op farms and state farms also have their own day nurseries.

The day and week nurseries are typical ones. The former takes care of infants of under three and a half years old during their mothers' working hours; they receive the children in the morning and discharge them in the evening when the mothers come for them. The week nursery, as the name suggests, looks after the babies for a week, from Monday morning to Saturday evening. With the week nursery mothers who have many children and those who have to be away from home leave their babies—those of actresses and artists who usually perform at night and who are on the road quite often, or of doctors and nurses who are required to be on the night duty. Most of the week nurseries are in the cities, and they take in infants of the 18 months-through three and half years age group. Sometimes children can stay longer at the nursery if need be, that is more than a week at a time.

Sometimes branch nurseries are set up for the working mothers whose places of em-

ployment are far from the day nursery. For instance, when the mothers taking the correspondence courses have to attend classes or when they attend short courses there may be branch nurseries for them.

In rural districts there is a day nursery for every workteam. But in view of geographic or other specific conditions branch nurseries are set up in villages.

Solicitude of the State

All nurseries are financed either by the state or by the co-op farms. The state runs nurse schools in Pyongyang and provincial seats to train nursery workers. The state also allocates either a pediatricist or a junior pediatricist to each nursery. It must be added that the nursery

workers command people's respect in our society. The state has established a title of Merited Nurse, which is awarded to a person who has a long distinguished service in the nursery work.

Special attention has been directed to equipping the nurseries fully. At every nursery one will find rooms for playing, eating, milking, napping, bathing, medical care...

Mothers are allowed to nurse the children during the working hours. Children's food is prepared and selected with the utmost care. And the children are given regularly a medical check-up, at least twice a week. If a child is transferred to other nursery for any reason, his health card goes with him. When the children are three years and a half old, they enter the kindergarten.

With the motherly care



OLD WOOD-BLOCK PRINT BOOKS

Recently the *Donga Ilbo*, a South Korean newspaper, reported the unearthing of some wood-block print books of the Silla era published more than 1,200 years ago, in Kyungjoo (one of the old cities of Korea) in North Kyungsang Province, in the southeastern part of the Korean peninsula.

The discovered books are, it is said, a Buddhist scripture and they were found hidden in the sacred urn of the Gautama Buddha Pagoda in the compound of the Boolgooksa Temple erected in the middle of the 8th century.

It was in 751 A.D. that Kim Dai Sung, Silla's Chancellor, built the magnificent temple. According to the South Korean paper, there appeared some letters in the newly found scripture that were used only in the period around the turn of the 8th century.

The newspaper commented that "fine and clear strokes speak of a highly developed printing art of the period."

The new discoveries—wood-block print books—testify to the fact that Korea takes a distinct place in the world history of wood-engraving too.

It may be added that metal type was used in Korea in the early 13th century.

"RED FLAG" ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE



RI CHAN SOON

SOME time ago I was in the Pyongyang Electric Locomotive Factory. It was my second visit. What caught my eyes when I entered at the main gate was an engraving of the congratulatory message of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the employees of this factory who produced the first electric locomotive in 1961, the first one ever to be made in Korea.

As I read it, I recalled the memorable day of August 30, 1961, at this factory.

It was on that day a shining, new electric locomotive—the fruits of hard work—was standing in the compound of the factory. Premier Kim Il Sung was there, too, to congratulate the employees of the factory. Listening to the explanations of the factory's leaders the Premier watched the new electric locomotive, then went round the factory.

He praised the workers and technicians of the factory for their good work and personally named the electric locomotive "Red Flag". He encouraged the workers to turn out many more "Red Flag" locomotives. Everyone present was boundlessly impressed. They renewed their resolve to produce more electric locomotives in order to contribute to railway electrification, an important job that the Seven-Year Plan called for.

Looking back on the things that took place on that memorable day, I, led by the chief engineer, went to the assembling shop.

Right away I could tell the shop greatly expanded; there were numbers of new machines and installations that I did not see last time.

A group of men were working on an electric locomotive almost completed; another on the body of a locomotive. There I saw Ri Eung Won talking with young welders. When I met him six years ago, he was a fitter, but now he is a deputy shop leader. He said in half jest:

"Remember how we were troubled because there was so much wanting in the precision of the car superstructure? But not any more!" Then he told me about the factory's past six years.

The place has been expanded considerably, and so many new equipment added. The people too have changed!

To be sure, they had to work out a lot of knotty problems before they put the "Red Flag" No. 1 on the rail. Formerly, the factory was equipped only for repairing locomotives, carriages, and waggons. Many additional machines and equipment were needed if they were to make the electric locomotive. Particularly, a high-speed contact-breaker. It was a tough job for the workers. However, under the guidance of chief engineer Kim Joo Kyo who drew up the blueprint, many veteran workers succeeded in making it after repeated failures. Their enthusiasm was really great.

The chief engineer said: "But one thing is sure. Our factory alone should not get all the credit for the

first 'Red Flag'. The locomotive was a product of the combined efforts of the country's industry." According to him, several factories and mills of the country are working together in the production of the "Red Flag."

The first electric locomotive in 1961 was a landmark in our machine-building industry, especially the electric engineering. During the five-year plan period (1957-1960), efforts were concentrated on laying the foundations for industrialization, and a number of heavy industrial plants came into being. And the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held in August 1960 called for an all-out technical innovation in every branch of the economy. In the sweeping tide of technical innovation the workers of this factory started to make the electric locomotive.

While we were in the shop, a few direct current traction motors were brought in. These motors were from the Daian Electric Machine Factory, I was told. I noticed also in the shop compressors and various gauges bearing the labels of Raheung Rail-

way Factory, Pyongyang Electric Appliances Factory, etc. Deputy shop leader said they also receive various kinds of insulators, fine lines and other electric materials from a number of factories. From the assembling shop, we went to the inspection shop, where the workers just finished checking a new electric locomotive, and an engineer was going to have a test run.

The chief engineer said that since the first locomotive the zeal of the employees has hit a new high. During the past five years more than 4,400 suggestions and proposals were advanced, and technical equipment needed for the locomotive production was made. Moreover, the work efficiency rose 1.7 times and the production cost went down 36 per cent.

In 1965, compared with 1962, the output of electric locomotives rose 4 times.

"Shortly another electric locomotive 'Red Flag' will be running on the tracks of the country," said the chief engineer, pointing to an electric locomotive which was ready to start.

40 Per Cent Of Income Goes For Taxes

Out of the total tax money the South Korean authorities collect every year the peasants' burden is no small one. To squeeze the peasants, the puppet clique is doing everything; tax rates are raised, and new tax systems are adopted.

The "farm income tax", for instance, is one of many taxes levied upon the South Korean peasants. After the "agrarian reform" the peasants used to pay it in kind. But in 1961 there was a change—now the tax was paid in cash. And the tax rate was raised by 15 per cent. Then in 1964 came another change. Again the peasants were ordered to pay the tax in kind, the shipping and packing charges too!

Inflation and the fluctuation of prices were the direct causes of such changes.

In 1947-1949 when the price of rice was stabilized relatively, taxes were paid in cash. But in 1951-1960, when the price of rice jumped higher than that of general goods, the farmers were requested to pay the taxes in kind. When the rice price went down in 1961, again the cash payment. Soon after, it went back to the payment in kind in 1964 when

the price of rice skyrocketed owing to a worse inflation and an acute food crisis.

The South Korean peasants have to pay the "land income tax" in addition to local tax and some 80 other kinds of miscellaneous taxes and fees. To name a few, there are such taxes and fees as "contributions to the army and police," "funds for the police station," "money for the local office!" So, when all the indirect taxes are added up, the peasants pay an enormous amount of money.

The South Korean budget for 1966 foresaw 88,000,000,000 won for tax money, local taxes included, of which 62,000,000,000 won came from the peasant families, i.e. 23,000 won from every farm family on the average.

According to the South Korean *Dongyang Tongshin* on June 20, 1966, the income per peasant household in 1965 was 57,520 won. It meant that the Seoul regime took away some 40 per cent of the peasants' incomes for taxes.

Most of the tax money, it must be pointed out, goes for financing the huge military programme.



Comrade Ri Je Soon

Ri Je Soon, a Revolutionary

HU HANG JONG

RI JE SOON is one of Korea's patriots who dedicated his life to the country when the armed struggle was waged against the Japanese imperialists that had occupied Korea.

From his early age he took part in the revolutionary work for restoration of the motherland, and his firm belief in ultimate victory was unshakable.

LIGHT WILL DAWN SOON

October 1937.

The Japanese imperialists began the invasion of China and their oppressive measures against the Korean people became more ferocious. It was such a time that Ri Je Soon was arrested by the Japanese police.

For seven months the police committed every brutal torture on him in their attempt to make him reveal his secrets. But their efforts were in vain.

All the Japanese police knew about him was that he was one of the "leading figures" they had been looking for. Nothing more. Ri Je Soon was thrown into gaol, but he did not give up the fight even in the prison. He took upon himself the "crimes" of many so that they went free and resumed their revolutionary work.

The Japanese authorities failed to produce any evidence, and they could not put him on trial for four years. In 1941 he faced a court at last. The Japanese produced in evidence a dagger, a fire-hook, rope and a few items to charge him with "murder," "arson," and "burglary!"

Ri Je Soon exposed every trick of the Japanese and added: "We are revolutionaries fighting for freedom and independence of our country and for the liberation of our people. This is our lofty ideal and we are fighting for it. Now you are trying to brand us as criminals. But let me say this. It is you, not we, who are the culprits. You are the criminals—you are the ones who occupy our country and suppress our people."

The disconcerted judges pronounced a death sentence on him and withdrew hastily to the cloak room.

Ri Je Soon was far from being depressed at the sentence, but encouraged the comrades present in the court: "Never say die! We will surely be victorious. The struggle must go on wherever we may be."

Then he appealed to the higher court. A new trial ensued. The case presented by the prosecution was the same and the same argument was used. In the end the sentence was the same. Ri

Je Soon summarized the case on his behalf.

"Now you are persecuting me. Why? Solely because I fight against Japanese imperialism. I repeat. This is the only and whole reason. In your attempt to put a legal cloak on this inhuman trial such words as 'burglary', 'arson', and 'murder' were generously used. You may execute me. But you must know that the day will come sooner than you ever expect when we pass the death sentence on you—Japanese imperialists. Remember, Korea is not dead!"

His sharp and scathing argument struck terror into the hearts of the prosecutors and judges. In due course attempts were made to appeal the case to the highest court; Ri Je Soon wanted the court room to indict the crimes of the Japanese imperialists. However, his appeal was rejected.

Though he was incarcerated for eight years, he held fast to his revolutionary principles and inspired his comrades, sowing the revolutionary seed.

March 10, 1945. He wrote his last letter to his wife, just a few hours before his execution.

"...I must tell you something I have held from you. My last hour is approaching. Soon there shall be no more of me. The enemy is sharpening the sword to take my life. I am afraid there will be no more letters to you from me. But there is something more important... This darkness will soon pass off and there will be a light, the dawn of liberation over the whole land of Korea.

"Please tell this to our two children. They may not yet understand what their father did.

That's why it is more important that you make them know what I stood for and how I worked. Tell them about my childhood, how I grew up, and for what I fought. Then tell them how I died. Tell them their father worked under the direct leadership of General Kim Il Sung. You must tell them everything you know about this great General. They should know the truth... Even now in my mind's eye I see the exalting day of our nation winning back the country..."

He was called out from the cell. Walking down the corridors guarded by the wardens, he shouted to his comrades locked in the cells on either side: "Comrades, farewell to you all... I am going now. I know you'll fight resolutely as ever."

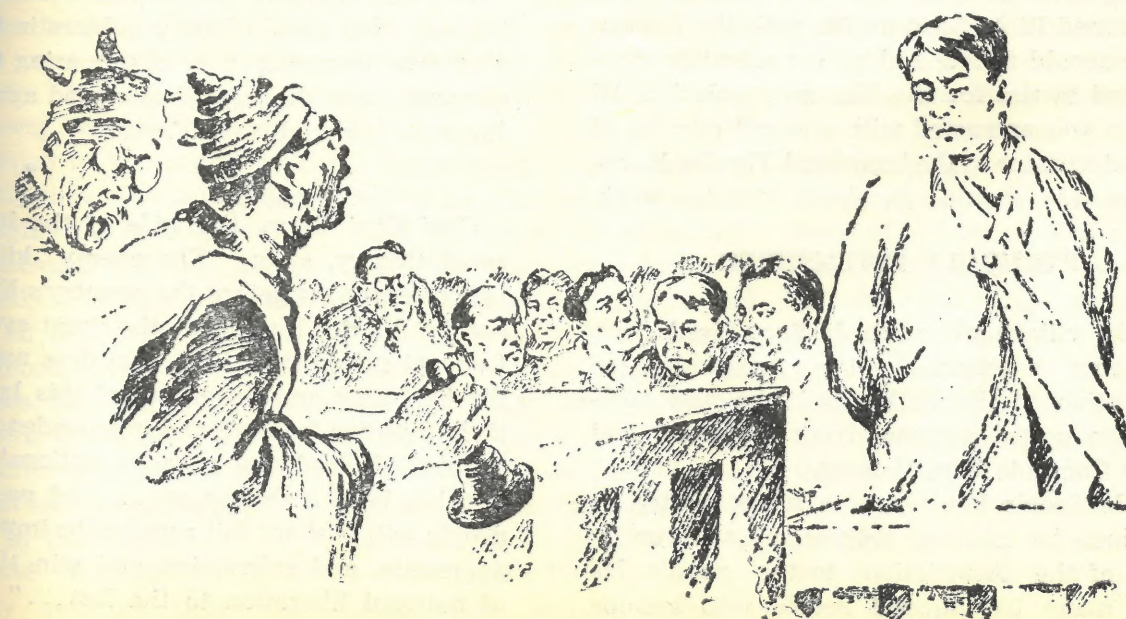
Just before he breathed his last he cried out: "Long live independence of Korea!" and "Long live General Kim Il Sung!"

Such was the heroic end of Ri Je Soon, a best son of this land.

TO SEEK CONNECTION WITH REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION

Ri Je Soon was born into a poor peasant family in Kiljoo in March 1910. He was the second boy in the family.

Already in his tender age he was a servant to a landlord. But, young as he was, he had a great thirst for knowledge; he thought learning was strength. Whenever he had time he taught himself and read literary works and books on sociology. Eventually he began to see the reality bit by bit.



When he grew up he joined the Youth League and imbued the young villagers with the revolutionary ideology and rallied them around the League. Soon he was blacklisted by the Japanese police, and he was under the constant surveillance.

All this made him leave his village so that he could put up a better fight against the Japanese imperialists. Soon he and his family moved to Kapsan.

In those days Kapsan was a centre of the revolutionary struggle against Japanese imperialism, and before long Ri Je Soon succeeded in joining hands with the revolutionary fighters in the region.

At that time, across the river in Northeast China, guerrillas guided by Comrade Kim Il Sung were very much active, fighting the Japanese imperialists.

Under the circumstances, a very important question confronted the revolutionaries in Korea—they must establish contacts with the guerrillas and they have to be guided by Comrade Kim Il Sung. But the immediate question was how. After repeated discussions, they decided that someone should move to Northeast China across the Amrok, where the guerrillas established a revolutionary power. And Ri Je Soon and his family were to go.

In March 1934 Ri Je Soon with his family went to Changpai County. It was in that autumn he succeeded in establishing contacts with the guerrillas and visited a secret camp where he met Comrade Kim Il Sung.

At the camp Ri Je Soon saw Comrade Kim Il Sung several times. Comrade Kim Il Sung enlightened Ri Je Soon on the path the Korean people should follow and on the scientific strategy and tactics for the Korean revolution. Ri Je Soon was entrusted with a secret mission of political agitator in the homeland. He also learned how he should go about with his work.

STRUGGLE INTENSIFIED

In the village where Ri Je Soon lived came into being a branch of the Association for Restoration of the Fatherland, the first anti-Japanese united national front organized and led by Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Ri Je Soon's house was a secret centre. It was there he told the programme and constitution of the Association to the people. He found many like-minded people who became

the core of the ever-expanding organization, and rallied the whole village around it.

The vitality of the Association programme and his able mass work were rewarded well. In every village in Changpai County a secret branch of the Association was set up. Before six months were out, the Changpai County Committee of the Association was formed and he was elected its chairman. He also organized and led an anti-Japanese youth league, a village contingent, and a women's association.

Comrade Kim Il Sung dispatched a few political workers to help Ri Je Soon. Thus, Ri Je Soon and his comrades could rally more and more people of broad social strata around the revolutionary organizations. With the members of the Association he organized a mass drive for helping the guerrillas.

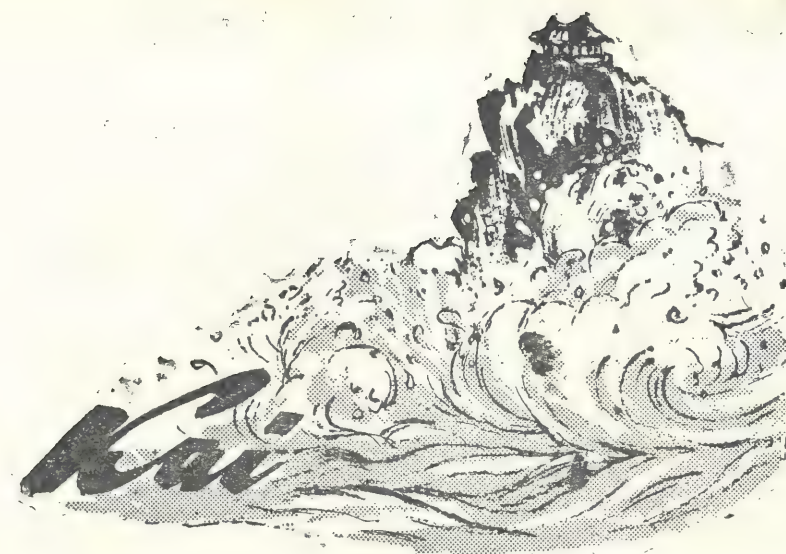
The Japanese authorities set up settlements and drove the people into them in a vicious attempt to isolate the guerrillas from the masses. Under the new situation Ri Je Soon and his comrades founded secret cells in these enemy-controlled villages to continue with the struggle for the restoration of the fatherland. Particularly, attaching great importance to the youth work, he recruited a number of patriotic-minded young people for the guerrillas. Then he also carried out successfully the revolutionary tasks entrusted by the revolutionaries in the homeland. He crossed the Amrok River several times daring the watchful eyes of the Japanese army and police to relay messages and instructions of Comrade Kim Il Sung to the revolutionaries in Korea and bring information to him. Such energetic underground activities of his and other revolutionary fighters in the land played an important part in preparing the 1937 campaign that the guerrillas waged against the Japanese imperialists in Korea.

* * *

Choi Chai Ryun, the wife of the inflexible revolutionary, says: "The enemy killed him just five months before the country's liberation and he did not live to see the great event. But I do not grieve over it. A countless number of the best sons and daughters of this land gave their lives for freedom and independence of the country! Indeed the path to national liberation has been a thorny one... And we Korean people will without fail repulse the imperialists' aggression and subversion and win the cause of national liberation to the last..."

A HISTORICAL TALE

Ron Kai



RON KAI is a celebrated name in Korea's history.

She was born into a commoner's family as an only child and was orphaned when she was 10. From her childhood she showed extraordinary intelligence and beauty.

When she grew up, she became a professional entertainer, a singing girl, yet she was a woman of virtue.

It was the time of the Imjin Patriotic War (1592-1598), when Hideyoshi of Japan sent a large army to invade Korea. The invaders met with a terrific beating in Jinjoo, Ron Kai's home town, but they stormed again Jinjoo in the summer of 1597. This time they succeeded in dislodging the defenders and took possession of the walls temporarily. Their outrage became all the more ferocious. They robbed, and burnt down the houses. Now all left in the walls were the aged, women, and children. She felt her heart rending at seeing her home town ravaged by the enemy.

She told herself: "I must take my revenge upon the

brutes. Yes, I must. I am a woman, but I must avenge the wronged people upon the enemy."

One day she was at the Hanroo Pavilion when a few Japanese came up to her. Greatly pleased at finding such a beauty, they took her to their camp. In the evening the Japanese invaders held a banquet at the Chosuk Pavilion, a scenic spot in Jinjoo. Ron Kai and some other women were bid to entertain them. A warrior who seemed to be the commander called Ron Kai to his side and ordered her to serve him.

Suppressing the burning hatred for the enemy, Ron Kai filled his cups in succession. Soon the man was dazed by liquor. Then a drum and Kayakeum—a Korean stringed instrument—were brought out, and Ron Kai was instructed to play on them.

By this time she had her own plans. Pretending she was pleased with the order, she sang a tune to the beatings of the drum. She had a beautiful

voice, too, and the Japanese warrior was greatly charmed by her song.

Ron Kai knew—it was the time. She stepped outside making eyes at him. Being transported with joy, the Japanese commander reeled after her. Ron Kai leaning over the parapet looked at the home village in the twilight.

"How can I leave these invaders to themselves? No! Humble as I am, I will give my life to defending this land."

She stepped down to stand on a high rock overlooking the swirling Namkang River. Then she put rings on all fingers lest her grip would loose when she jumps into the river with him in her arms. She stepped back to the edge of the rock as if she was shy when the drunken Japanese warrior approached her. The next moment, in a flash, she grabbing him with her hands jumped into the water.

Thus Ron Kai offered her life for her country, demonstrating the patriotic spirit of the Korean women.

Chongsukjung

CHONGSUKJUNG on the East Sea in central Korea has been known for its scenic beauty from olden times.

Scores of soaring towers of rocks on the sea present a majestic sight. This is part of Hai-Keumgang (Mt.

Keumgang on the sea). A foreign tourist said that Chongsukjung reminded him of a crystal palace in the fairy tale.

Among the numerous rock pillars, particularly famous is Shinsunbong (Fairy Peaks) — a group of four

rocks standing tens of metres high above the sea. It was named so because, it was said, four fairies descended from heaven to have a rest there.

The stone pillars are a granite formation from volcanic eruptions.

The sunrise on Chongsukjung, rainbows hanging in the mid-air above the breaking waters of the sea, and a boat ride in the silvery night—one can only admire at the marvels of Nature here.

To the southwest, peaks of Mt. Keumgang are seen in the distance, and to the north the famous Kook Island of the strange-looking rocks dotted with old pines is floating.

Chongsukjung is well known not only for its scenic beauty, but also for battle stories. During the Patriotic War of Liberation our navy engaged U.S. warships off the sea here and crushed them.

A SHORT STORY



A Cigarette Holder (2)

SUL JOO YONG

For some months I did not tell anyone about the cigarette holder. It was in my pocket.

In the meantime the situation on the front under the General's charge became very tense. From the flood all supply routes were severed. Some units were making a heroic stand on the unnamed heights against the on-coming hordes of the enemy. All kinds of reports kept pouring into the old man's headquarters.

The urgent situation called for a new campaign. And hurriedly too!

The General stayed up two nights straight. It was the third night. Fearing that he might stay up another night, I stepped into his quarters with some snacks. (He hardly had any decent meals for the past few days.)

He was in the midst of conference with his aides. For a second, his eyes said I should not bother him with the trifle. But, evidently he did not mean to hurt me. He put a paper over the snack tray that I left on the table, saying: "Thanks, I'll have it later."

Again he was in deep thought. A cigarette was burning between his fingers, sending out a thin line of smoke. Only when the fingers felt the burning cigarette, did he notice his smoke. He lit up another one.

I stood there and watched him repeat this again and again. He noticed my presence eventually.

"Perhaps, you could make me a cigarette holder. Anything will do. Maybe a poplar branch will make a holder, won't it? So long as it holds a cigarette it'll be all right."

Now I could no longer hide the cigarette holder story from him. Readily I answered:

"General, I have one here."

"Why didn't you give it to me sooner if you had it all this time?"

So pleased he stood up from his chair and shot across the room in quick steps. I handed him the cigarette holder—his cigarette holder. He examined it for some time before asking me in a dubious tone.

"Wait a minute! Isn't this the one I gave to Chul?"

Now I had to tell him the whole story and I did. His expression changed and roared out.

"That's why! Now I remember. That's why the kid cried so. Who asked you to do that? Did I tell you to take it back from the kid?"

Now he was back in his chair. He was in fury and pounded the table. The cigarette holder was in my hand.

"If everyone thinks as you do, why should we do the fighting like this? Why are you silent? Say something!"

He was so angry that his aides too did not know what to do. There was an awful hush for a minute. He cried in a voice of thunder. "Take it back to him right away, do you hear me?"

With these words he turned to the map on the table.

I guess he thought I had gone, as he was much calmer and told his aides. "I know why he did it. But he knows only one thing."

But he jumped to his feet and roared out when he noticed I was still in his room.

"I told you to go, didn't I? Or, didn't you hear me?"

His staff knew him well and signed me with the eyes that I should go. I left the room—the cigarette holder was in my grip.

Once outside I felt a little better. I thought. If I tell Chul's mother about the General and his cigarette holder, she won't let the boy keep it even a minute, but she would see to it that it comes back to the General at all costs. I found a car and hurried to Chul's village.

What an alarming sight! There was no village in the valley where the General's car had stopped some months ago. Only heaps of ashes were here and there and the startled birds beat the air making a strange noise.

It was in the village some way from there I could get what had happened to Chul's village. Of course, the people were rather new to this part of the country, as they were the people evacuated from the war zones.

What they related to me was this. Many months ago enemy jets bombed here and all Chul's family were killed!

It was after midnight that I returned to the division headquarters.

The light was still on in the General's room. Instantly I thought. He was sleeping in his chair again. Killing my breath I opened his door. All his staff members were gone, only the signal corps girl was there besides the General. The girl dozed off resting her head on her machine—the general's overcoat was around her. The old man was reading by the gaslight. There was a red-covered book in his hands. I knew right away it was the letter that the Party Central Committee addressed to all Party members and the entire people. This was the third night that he was sitting up. He looked very haggard. And I had

no heart to tell him what I had just seen in the village.

He took off his glasses and grinned broadly.

"I hope you're not too cross with me. Well, how was the kid?"

"Well..."

"I bet he grew up quite a bit, I suppose."

"Yes, certainly."

"I suppose he still talks big, yeah?"

"Ah, sure."

"That is the boy! I tell you he will be a somebody as he says. The kid like him makes us go through all this mess minding little."

The General was in high spirits. He took out another cigarette and began to press one end unconsciously—he was still thinking, I could see, he had the cigarette holder. He seemed he was greatly pleased, and all this touched me deeply. He said I should turn in for the night, but I should drop in at the personnel on the way.

Soon I found out why he told me to be at the personnel. At a time when the war was raging in full fury, I was recommended to the officers' training school!

But how could I leave the front? It would be a desertion! Now I had to avenge Chul upon the enemy. I rushed back to the General's quarters, but the place was stirred up again. Another report had come from the front. His staff members were in and out with documents in their hands and the telephones kept ringing. The wireless operator's voice shrilled "Maibong," "Maibong!" She was calling a unit.

The General with a small pointer in his hand was on the wire.

"Yes... What? Right flank, Height 731? You say it is about one infantry regiment. We'll knock hell out of them... Good! How are the men? Fine, fine! That's right. We should get everyone of them. I'll be there right away."

When he put down the receiver he made a circle around the table in big strides. Then in a quite agitated tone he told his aides: "I will be right back!"

The firing line was only one kilometre away from the headquarters. And day was breaking outside, which meant the enemy planes. Everyone present asked the General not to risk. But he rebuked them in half jest.

"What do you mean I shouldn't go? I feel quite good. I just heard good news about Chul. I tell you this is worth it."

Maybe his confidence did it, I don't know. But there was no trace of fatigue in his face that I had seen some minutes ago. He looked fresh and as good as new.

He stepped lively towards his car. After him I was about to get on too in silence.

"Oh, no! Not you! I imagine you were at the personnel. Then you are their man now!"

"But General, I don't want to..."

"That's enough now. Do you think I like to see you leave me?... I got to go now. The blessed Yankees are waiting for me. I got to show them one or two things. O, just one thing before I go. Do well at the school!"

With these words he closed the car door. I could sense he too was sorry to let me go. I guess he did not want to show it—he even made a wink.

The car engine started. The cannonading became louder, the enemy planes were zooming. But I just stood there and watched the speeding car feeling his big heart—the heart that knew both love and hate. How I wished I could rush to the firing line too! Soon the smoke swallowed up the car. Before I knew it, I was holding his cigarette holder in my pocket, my eyes dimming with tears...

Years passed.

When I saw the General again it was on the graduation day at the officers' training school.

After the war the General came to the Ministry where he was holding a responsible position.

He was invited to sit on the platform at the ceremony. I noticed he had a new cigarette holder. It was only half the length of the one I had—I mean his. I could not help laughing in my sleeve and I told myself. He may rebuke me again, but I must give him the cigarette holder this time.

Soon it was the intermission time.

I found the General. How glad he was to see me! Like old friends, we talked about Heroes and fighters, about the postwar reconstruction, and about my years at the school.

I collected courage and remarked:

"General, I don't think much of your cigarette holder."

"Yeah, I know. But I'm only glad that I got it. My wife found it some place. Speaking of the cigarette holder, it reminds me of Chul. I wonder where he is now. Maybe he is in school now!"

"Maybe."

"What do you mean by maybe? I bet he should have finished the primary school by now... By the way, I suppose you have not seen him after that evening when you gave it back to him."

"No! Well, I should have looked him up, but with my studies I just couldn't..."

"Did you hear any news of him by any chance?"

"I intend to go see him once when I am out of here."

Even then I could not tell him the truth, so I pretended everything was all right. But I did not think he liked my answer as he said if I had wanted I could have managed somehow to go find him.

To tell the truth, I did try to "locate" Chul. I had been to his village again. But when I went there, I found the people whom I had met during the war had returned to their places after the truce. There were few people in the neighbourhood and I could not learn much about Chul. Except one thing. There was a rumour. There was one survivor, a little boy, and he was taken away by the Government. I had thought then I would follow up the clue when I had more time after graduation.

The General was still displeased with what I had told him. He seemed almost angry, puffing at his cigarette.

"I suppose your group only know to hate the enemy. But you must also learn to feel closer to our own people."

For a second I thought I should produce the cigarette holder in front of him, then he would know everything. But how could I? He was thinking so much of the



kid, and I had still something to work on. So, I said no more.

Well, that was all right for the moment, but... I knew the General would suffer so much when he found out what had happened to Chul. On my part, of course, I did not want to believe the kid was dead. They had said there was a survivor, and it was a boy. That's right. I must find him.

After that I wrote many inquiring letters. I asked everyone about the boy.

In the meantime my appointment paper came through and I was sent to my old unit. Then my first leave, which I decided to devote to searching Chul.

I visited many likely places to make inquiries, and made several trips. Toward the end of my leave I was in an institute.

The school was over for the day and only a few pupils were there. They were evidently members of a study group as they were in the midst of discussion. When I looked at those bright faces I thought more of Chul.

In the history study room I admired the displays they had made. But, since there were not many people in the institute, I decided to return in the following day, and I was about to leave. Suddenly I noticed something which startled my eyes. Among the displays, there was the broken fountain-pen that I had given to Chul! That was not all. Under the pen there was an explanatory note. How they praised the General and all!

I asked the students to take me to the one who presented the fountain-pen.

In a dormitory room I found a well-developed boy. On his broad chest was shining a model Young Pioneers' badge. How fresh and healthy he looked! There was no mistake about it. It was Chul! Yes,

there he was!

When I told him who I was his eyes swarmed with tears.

Eventually Chul told me how his mother was killed in the enemy air raid, how he was taken in a People's Army car, then to the institute—He had nothing on him except the broken fountain-pen...

Hearing Chul's quiet narration I felt there was a fine embodiment of the General's noble spirit. As the boy said, it grew up with him, and the fountain-pen became so precious to him.

Now it was my turn to tell Chul about the cigarette holder, and I gave it to him which rightly belonged to him. But he almost reproved me—he said I should have given it back to the General long ago; he won't take it.

There was a lump in my throat—perhaps one could say a lot at a time like that, but only I managed to say that he should take it and when the proper time comes...

As he took the holder tears came to his eyes again. Maybe from it, he felt the warmth of the loving hands of the country that took him out of the raging flames.

I brought Chul with me to Pyongyang. We would visit the General together.

In the early morning we knocked at the General's door, but he had gone already. We were told that there was a meeting the previous night and he came home at small hours of the night. But there was a storm warning this morning, and he had gone to the construction site where armymen were working.

We hurried to the construction site.

The whole scene was busy as a bee. Hundreds of men were rushing. The frame was up, and they were trying to put prefab parts before the storm came. Towering cranes squeaked, whistles shrieked, welders' light sparkled.

There was the General. He was guiding the whole project as though he had done at the front. His hair was now almost silvery. He seemed he was looking at the ladders, but, instead of going up there, he helped the men secure parts to the long arms of the crane.

When the main business was over, the General took time off to have another look of the whole place. Thinking now was the time, I approached him and greeted him. Wiping his cement-covered hands against his trousers he shook my hands warmly.

"It's about time! we knew you're having a vacation and I and my wife have been expecting you."

Then pointing to Chul he asked:

"Is this your nephew?"

"General, I have brought Chul with me!"

Chul gave the General a Pioneers' salute stepping forward. The General froze, and just kept looking at him. Stretching his hands he touched the boy, and embraced him. "You are all right!" His voice broke. And tears stood in Chul's eyes.

"Now, now! You're a big boy now. Tears are sissy!"

That was the General, but he turned his face. After a short pause he asked Chul:

"Well, how are you making out in school?"

It seemed the question startled Chul. A grin appeared on his tear-soaked face.

"But, General, I know why I have to study!"

The General was so pleased with his answer he gave a little poke on my side. Chul's answer was more than I had expected—this was the boy who had to get the General's cigarette holder at all costs!

In a few minutes the General gave instructions to his aides before we got on his car. While walking to the car, the General asked me what I thought of his plan. The Party had taken care of Chul so far, but from now on he was going to have him.

Well, if I was to tell him I should be his "guardian"—because that was what I wanted—I knew he would be so disappointed, so I yielded.

"Well, I suppose so..."

"What do you mean, you suppose so? Lieutenant. No more funny stuff. I mean something like you did with the cigarette holder. I won't be so easy this time. Do you get me, ha?"

"Well, General! That cigarette holder business was certainly not an easy one... You leave me no choice."

The General nodded readily. In the car he did not take off his eyes from the boy. I guess he saw again the difficult war days in his face.

Suddenly he asked the boy:

"Well, do you still have the cigarette holder that I gave you?"

"Yes, General!"

Then Chul took out the cigarette holder wrapped in a handkerchief. The General was greatly touched. He sent out a cry.

"So you did keep it!"

As he held the cigarette holder in his hand, it seemed, his thoughts were turning to those days—the difficult war days.

Our car sped. There was a new Pyongyang rising up. What a trial the young country was coming through. We had crushed the American imperialists and the whole nation was out to build a new life on this dear land of ours.

Who would say that the simple affection that a General had shown to a boy in those trying times did not have its place in this great undertaking?

The End



Weavers after the rehearsal. The photo is taken in front of the factory club
(at the Pyongyang Textile Mill)



Traditional Korean painting "Women of the Namkang Village" (1966)

By Kim Eui Kwan



Stills From "A JOLLY STAGE"



An air stunt act

Jin Kyoo and Sung Sook, sweethearts meet after a long separation



The role of the clown is played by Jin Kyoo, a violinist, and he is a hit

THE new film "A Jolly Stage" is a 1966 production of the Korean Feature Film Studio. The story is full of mirth giving a picture of the hope-filled and optimistic life of the people.

Gaiety of the film becomes livelier with many merry tunes, vocal and instrumental.

The story is built around two pairs of young people—acrobat Jin Kyoo and singer Sung Sook, a conservatory graduate, then composer Sung Pil, Sung Sook's brother, and acrobat Yung Ja.

Sung Pil regards circus as something unworthy of the name of art; to him it is merely a game of clowns. As a matter of fact, he seldom goes to watch the circus, as he thinks art is something serious and profound. One day he is made to go to the Acrobatic Theatre by his mother and younger sister Sung Sook. You can hardly say he is enjoying himself.

By chance, during the intermission, the family runs into Jin Kyoo, Sung Sook's classmate and her sweetheart. Sung Sook and Jin Kyoo lost track of each other for long. Jin Kyoo's parents were killed during the Korean war and now he is a violinist at the Acrobatic Theatre. But that day he is called upon to fill the part of a clown—the man cannot appear because he is sick. The clown appears with Yung Ja. Jin Kyoo manages the role somehow, and, to his surprise, he has made a hit! Ever since then he has been made to play the role regularly.

One day he calls at Sung Sook's house as promised.

Sung Sook eventually brings out Jin Kyoo's violin that he had left with the family during the wartime. How delighted Jin Kyoo is to find his old violin! And he plays on the instrument. Superbly too! But the family does not know that Jin Kyoo is an acrobat because he has told Sung Sook and her folks that he is working at a factory. And the composer who thinks little of the circus ridicules the clowns. Impressed by Jin Kyoo's playing, Sung Pil coaxes Jin Kyoo to become a member of the symphony orchestra.

However, in his heart of hearts Sung Pil has a soft spot for circus—it is beautiful Yung Ja and her fine talent. He returns to the theatre again, simply to watch her. There he meets a man at the box office who turns out to be Yung Ja's uncle, a medical doctor. In the course of conversation, the doctor realizes the young man is in love with his niece, and he tells himself he would help the young composer.

Gradually Sung Pil begins to see what he has thought about the circus was wrong.

Sung Sook is very anxious to see again Jin Kyoo, who did not let her know his address. In the end, she goes to the Acrobatic Theatre along with her mother hoping he may return to see the show again.

The day Sung Sook picked to go to the circus with her mother is the very day her brother Sung Pil is at the theatre at the invitation of Yung Ja!

Sung Sook cannot recognize Jin Kyoo on the stage—Jin Kyoo is acting a clown. On the part of Jin Kyoo, since he knows Sung Sook's family jeers at the clown he does not tell them what he is.

It is the intermission.

Sung Pil and Yung Ja are in the

foyer.

Sung Sook by chance runs into Sung Pil who, so bewildered, disappears among the crowd. Now Yung Ja feels so queer. She doesn't know what to make out. She thinks the girl—Sung Sook—must be his girl friend. (How should Yung Ja know she is his sister?) Yung Ja's uncle, who has come with Sung Pil, begins to think, too, Sung Pil is a man of dubious character.

In the meantime Sung Sook walking up and down is looking for Jin Kyoo.

The intermission is over.

The act of Jin Kyoo and Yung Ja is on. Their fine performance wins the spectators' admiration. Sung Sook so excited calls Sung Pil, "brother!", which is overheard by Yung Ja's uncle.

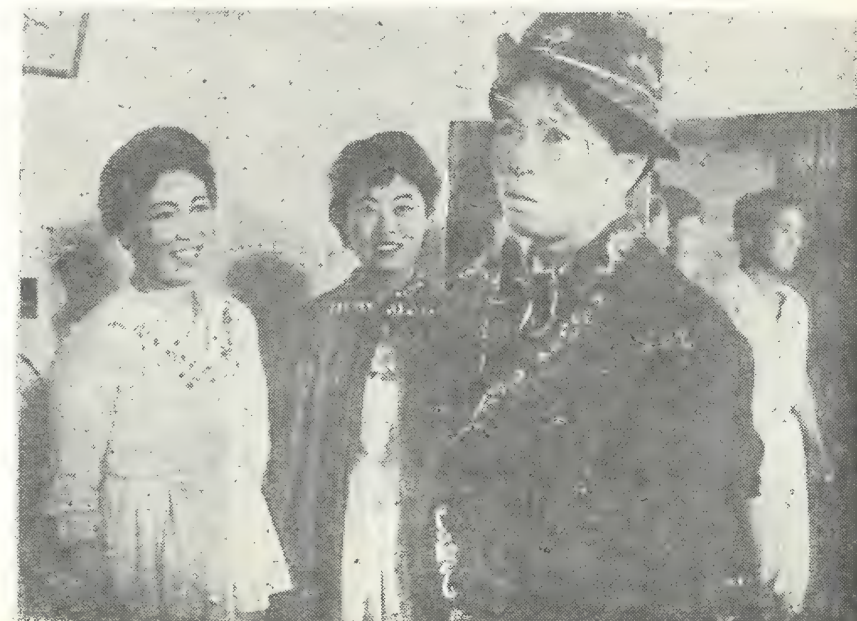
Thus misunderstanding is cleared.

Sung Sook finds Jin Kyoo through Yung Ja, and everything is all right between Sung Pil and Yung Ja.

The film closes with a scene in which Sung Pil gives Yung Ja a new piece of music which he has composed for the theatre at her request.

Many fine acts of acrobatics—seesaw, walking on the rope, air-stunt, air-swing, dogs' football, etc.—are shown in the film, too.

Fellow acrobats are wishing Jin Kyoo will do all right in his role of the clown





Traditional Korean painting "An Old Man on the Rakdong River"

By Ri Chang

On Korea's FINE ARTS

RECENTLY a great number of works appeared in the field of fine arts.

Of these paintings, sculptures, and others, it can be summarized that they speak of the revolutionary struggle of the people, of the inspiring stories about how the people defended the country and home villages in the hard days of the Patriotic War of Liberation, of the present era seen from different angles, and of the plight and the struggle of the South Korean people for the country's unification.

In the sphere of Korean paintings, it was noticeable that a penetrating

study of the country's heritage and techniques was made and that keen attention was directed to carrying forward the nation's characteristics a step further. Paintings on a wider range of subjects appeared.

Particular mention must be made of a new trend—more colours are being used instead of black and white. It seems the painters adopted this new approach urged by their ardent temperament—the painters who want to be part of the inner world of the people. Their works, as expected, are closer to the truth and more profound.

Many oil paintings of inspiring

themes appeared. Moreover, the new works indicate that the artists direct much attention to revealing the true sentiments of the Korean people: they are intent on studying the heart of the nation's cultural heritage and establishing the national identity so that techniques suitable for meeting the demands of the times could be developed.

Socialist realism and true portrayal are more noticeable in the new sculptures.

In the field of art goods one can appreciate the fine traditions of the nation's handicraft techniques.

Lacquer ware, mother-of-pearl

inlaid ware, and porcelain were distinguished with elegance and grace.

Many new attempts were to be traced also in graphic arts and stage settings.

All these attainments in Korea's fine arts were fully to be admired in such traditional Korean paintings as "The Kosung Folk Aiding the Army," "Sewing Corps"; then "The Beacon of Bocheonbo," "Arduous March," "At Kangsun after the War," "Wrath" in oil. In this connection, the recent 9th national fine arts exhibition deserves special mention.

Among the traditional Korean paintings on display most impressive were "Women of the Namkang Village" and "An Old Man on the Rakdong River."

The former presented the women of a small Korean village who fought heroically in the difficult Patriotic War of Liberation. The latter was on an old man who was ready to give his life if it could help the men of the Korean People's Army who reached the Rakdong River (in South Korea) in the war.

Oil paintings "On the March" and "The Daughter," sculptures "A Young Collier before Liberation" and "Hope," and illustration "Classroom" won everyone's admiration.

Oil painting "On the March" (See the February 1967 issue of this magazine.) spoke eloquently of the lofty inner world of the Korean People's Army men in a simple and graphic composition.

In the oil painting "The Daughter" one can see the true nature of the old society and the plight of the Korean people through an episode in the days of Japanese colonial rule.

Embroidery "Fairy" showed in the face of the gracefully flying beauty the ideal of the Korean people who love freedom and happiness. In porcelain works new glazing and designs attracted much attention.

Following the Party's line of literature and arts to establish the national identity, preserve the national heritage, and enhance militancy and revolutionary spirit, our artists are working diligently to register greater achievements.



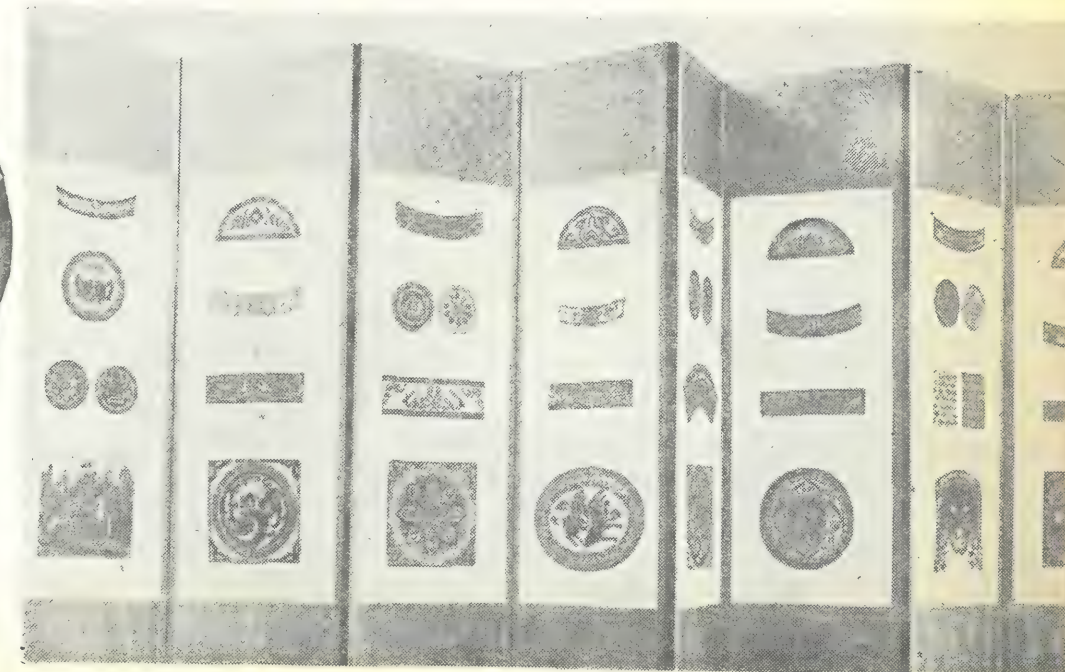
Sculpture "Young Collier before Liberation"
By Ro Joon Ki

A peony-designed vase
By Kim Sung Taik



A folding screen

By Han Eun Sook



THE SACCHARIN CASE

THE "saccharin case" was a much celebrated smuggling case in South Korea last September.

The political circles and people of South Korea held indignation meetings and demonstrations. "Down with comprador capitalists!" and "Down with the rotten government!" were their slogans.

The story of the smuggling case was something like this.

It was in September last year that Ri Byung Chul, director of the Hanguk Fertilizer Company, went to Japan. His trip was for securing construction materials for a fertilizer plant with the 61,870,000 dollar loan he obtained from Japan with the certification of payment by the South Korean puppet regime. But the stuff he bought was far from what is ordinarily needed for building a fertilizer plant. According to Seoul Donga Radio on September 26, the purchasing list included 2,400 sacks of raw material for saccharin, teletypes, typewriters, refrigerators, washing machines, 11,500 ball bearings, Diesel generators, and various chemical products. Ri Byung Chul brought in these goods under the label of building materials and sold them collecting

huge profits. It should be recalled that no duties were contemplated for building materials for the fertilizer plant from Japan under this arrangement.

As for the Hanguk Fertilizer Company, it is the main plant of the Samsung interests, the biggest firm in South Korea. The South Korean *Hapdong Tongshin* reported that in this smuggling case were involved several cabinet ministers of the South Korean regime and other high-ranking officials not excluding Pak Jung Hi himself.

The Samsung interests, the South Korean press reports, gave Pak Jung Hi 3-5 billion won in the South Korean currency for political funds.

As for the Samsung interests, it is a nouveau riche nursed by the U.S. imperialists. The Americans favoured Ri Byung Chul to make him take care of the sale of U.S. surplus goods and facilitate U.S. plunder in South Korea. In the meantime, he contributed generously to the South Korean puppet regime for political funds.

Such is the history of the Samsung interests.

It controlled all the sugar bought in the United States with the South

Korean "government"-owned dollars. Soon after, the Samsung interests bought equipment in the U.S. to build a sugar refinery in South Korea to process exclusively raw sugar imported from the U.S. Virtually sugar has been a complete monopoly of the Samsung.

The Samsung interests and every puppet regime of South Korea, from Syngman Rhee to Pak Jung Hi, always worked together for the unsavoury end. The Samsung interests grew and South Korean rulers got richer.

The prime minister and other cabinet ministers of South Korea were interpellated with regard to the smuggling case at the national assembly. Some high-ranking officials were blamed for making shameful deals with Big Business for personal ends.

While the cabinet ministers concerned were questioned at the national assembly, a member by the name of Kim Doo Hwan mounted the rostrum, a big saccharin can in his hand, a can of filth. He ridiculed the ministers who were interceding for the unsavoury deals of Big Business. Then he showered the prime minister and his ministers with filth.

A South Korean national assemblyman with a saccharin case containing filth in front of him is denouncing corrupt ministers at a South Korean puppet national assembly session



Students of the Literary and Science College of Seoul University gather to protest against the big scandal in which the Pak Jung Hi clique and the Samsung interests are involved

THE ZIMBABWE DAY

THE Korean people express militant solidarity with the fighting people of Zimbabwe as they greet The Zimbabwe Day designated by the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Conference in Moshi.

On this day every year the Africans and the world progressive people express their firm solidarity with the Zimbabwe people who are fighting for the nation's dignity and rights, against the racist Smith regime, a product spawned up by the imperialists.

Zimbabwe abounds in natural resources; the people who have inherited the time-honoured, glorious traditions of fighting for the nation's unity are diligent and industrious. They are a people of creative energies. But the country has been turned into a land of poverty at the hands of the colonialists, and her people are oppressed and discriminated.

But the Zimbabwe people are fighting for national independence and freedom, and the frightened British colonialists who have sweated the people so long instigated the Smith clique to declare unilaterally "independence" in the hope to perpetuate the British rule over this country. Indeed, the move of the British government is an insult to the people of Zimbabwe, it is an unpardonable challenge to the whole people of Africa. It is only expected that the so-called declaration of Southern Rhodesia's "independence" should evoke a storm of anger in Zimbabwe and whole Africa and in the world. Already 30 African countries have applied sanctions against the Smith regime, politically and economically; and ten nations have broken off diplomatic relations with England.

But the U.S.-British imperialists who have played every intrigue to undermine the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe and other African nations are actively backing the Smith clique. It is their aim to continuously plunder the land of Zimbabwe and build up the racists of Southern Rhodesia and South Africa as the bulwark against the struggle of the African peoples for national liberation.

The Smith puppets are trampling down national freedom and independence of the Zimbabwe people with the backing of the Anglo-American imperialists; they are playing an important role in the evil schemes of the imperialists against the security of Africa, schemes for sabotage and subversion.

It is only natural for the Zimbabwe people to wage the armed struggle for independence and freedom. Theirs is a just struggle enjoying the support of the peoples of Africa and the whole world.

On October 14 last year President Nyerere of Tanzania pointed out that the only way to free Southern Rhodesia from white minority rule lay in fighting for freedom with arms, and it was the duty of the African countries to give all the help the people of Zimbabwe needed.

The Korean people resolutely denounce the criminal machinations of U.S.-British imperialism and they are standing firmly on the side of the fighting people of Zimbabwe.

The final victory will be with the Zimbabwe people and the colonialists will be defeated for sure.

In the meantime, the Hanguk Fertilizer Company declared that it would hand the company over to the "government" and wash its hands of the construction project. Need it be said that this was a very clumsy trick to pull the wool over the people's eyes?

The capital of the Hanguk Fertilizer Company is over 61,000,000 dollars financed by the Japanese monopolies with the certification of payment by the South Korean regime in addition to 2,100 million won in the South Korean currency backed by the Pak Jung Hi clique. In short, part of the assets of the Samsung interests is what the South Korean regime has squeezed out of the people. With such funds Big Business is operating, and it is sharing the profits with the ruling circles. In the last analysis Big Business and the "government" are one—their business is to exploit the people.

That is why the Pak Jung Hi regime is working so hard, in an attempt to hush up the smuggling case, to put what had taken place in the assembly hall into focus. To this end, the prime minister and other ministers tendered their resignations to Pak Jung Hi saying that their malodorous baptism at the national assembly made their ministership impossible and decided to resign in a body. (South Korean *Dongyang Tongshin*)

"President" Pak Jung Hi, returning the resignation papers back to them, bade them stay in office and issued a special statement. Pak Jung Hi stated that because of the "incident" at the national assembly ministers would not attend the assembly sessions from thereon and he had communicated to the "legislative council" to this effect.

According to South Korea's *Hapdong News Agency*, it is the general observation that with Pak's letter South Korea's constitution would come to a standstill because the constitution stipulated that ministers would attend the national assembly sessions. But nothing is unusual for Pak Jung Hi, the incarnation of corruption and graft, to ignore the constitution or any laws.

Now the Pak Jung Hi regime is called a "filthy and unlawful regime" in South Korea. And South Korea is called a jungle.



The U.S. army that occupies South Korea under the name of "U.N." calls the military demarcation line a "U.S. defence line"

NOW the U.S. has some 60,000 troops in South Korea, and the Pentagon is working very hard to make the world call it a "United Nations army!"

MACARTHUR SHOULD KNOW

When Japan was defeated in the second world war, the U.S. army came to Korea to occupy the area south of the 38th parallel. They were there under an international agreement to disarm the Japanese troops. Such was the U.S. army, and it is the same U.S. army that still occupies South Korea today. Then, why are they so anxious to have their army called a "U.N. army"?

In June 1950 the Pentagon started the war in Korea, and the American aggressors who began the open armed invasion of North Korea gave the name of "U.N. army" to their army to cover up their aggression. It goes without saying that the U.N. Charter was utterly violated by the U.S. government.

According to the U.N. Charter, when a dispute is under consideration by the Security Council, any state, if it is a party to the dispute, shall be invited to participate in the discussion related to the dispute.

The United States, however, disregarding even this simple provision wrought the "resolutions" at the U.N. Security Council on dispatching the "U.N. force" to Korea in the name of "U.N. police action" solely based on the false statements provided by their own men. They barred representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from taking part in the discussion.

What was the truth about the Korean war? How did things stand? According to the testimony of Kim Hyo Suk, former minister of the interior under Syngman Rhee, it was former U.S. State Secretary Dulles who stated making the signal for the war, "We (U.S.)... by accusing North Korea of attacking South Korea, will compel the United Nations to take action in whose name land, naval and air forces would be mobilized."

The "U.N. army" is what the U.S. manufactured unlawfully to give its occupation army "respectability." The United Nations has little say in the matter concerning this supposedly "U.N. army," nor can it review and study the functions of this army. Nor can it make up the budget or the question of personnel. The United Nations does not and cannot do so, because this army is not a "U.N. army" but the American army, because it is not responsible to the United Nations but to Washington.

It was Douglas MacArthur, "U.N. Commander" during the Korean war, who let the cat out of the bag. It was he who stated that "My relationship with the United Nations was only quite nominal. Everything I did was controlled entirely by the Joint Chiefs of Staff... Even my routine reports had to be cleared with the U.S. State and Defence Departments. In short, I had nothing to do with the U.N. in whatever form... All my correspondence was conducted through the U.S. Defence Department in Washington."

Even today, Washington appoints the commanders for this "U.N. army," organizes it, bears the responsibility for its operations and allocates its budget without any consultation with the U.N.

TO SECURE A BASE FOR AGGRESSION

The former "U.N. Commander in South Korea," Beach, professed that "South Korea must keep large armed forces combat-ready as it is the only bastion of the free world on the Asiatic Continent north of Vietnam," and that the stationing of the U.S. troops in South Korea was "important for the security of the United States itself."

Thus, the real aim of U.S. occupation of South Korea is to make the southern part of the Korean peninsula a permanent U.S. military bridgehead for aggression on the whole of Korea and the Asiatic Continent. To this aggressive end, Washington has systematically violated the Korean Armistice Agreement and converted South Korea into an atomic and rocket base and into a nuclear submarine base. The U.S. army and the puppet army 600,000 strong have been continuously reinforced with combat equipment, and war games are conducted against North Korea.

Washington having made Tokyo and Seoul conclude the "South Korea-Japan Treaty" is even bringing the revived Japanese militarists into South Korea and is working like mad to set up a new military alliance by raking up its satellite countries in the Asian and Pacific region.

The U.S. also has made South Korea a manpower source for its dirty war of aggression against the Vietnamese people. It is egging on the Seoul puppets to dispatch more men to South Vietnam.

As is known to all, the U.S. had occupied South Korea before the U.N. "resolution" was adopted, and it makes no secret of its intention of permanent occupation of South Korea.

In 1953 the Washington government concluded the "South Korea-U.S. Mutual Defence Pact" with the Seoul puppet regime, which provided for the indefinite stationing of the American forces in South Korea. It is nothing but a manifestation of U.S. intention to keep its troops for ever in South Korea in order to materialize its aggressive aims whether there be a U.N. resolution or not. Yet, the U.S. is trying to justify its occupation of South Korea under the plea of the U.N. "resolution."

KOREA BELONGS TO KOREANS

History tells that when a country occupies others it invites war and dispute and all aggressors invade other countries under any pretext. Hitler clamoured for "a new order in Europe" when he started the aggressive war, and Japan invaded China and the Southeast Asian countries under the name of "peace in Asia." And the U.S. is doing the same in South Korea today.

The U.S. army calling itself "liberator" landed in South Korea, but it has reduced the land to its colony and military base. Now it holds sway over all fields, political, economic, military, and cultural. They are colonial rulers in every sense of the word. At gun point they took away even all elementary democratic rights and freedom from the South Korean people and harshly suppress every expression, however slight it may be, of the country's peaceful unification. They practice discrimination against the South Korean people and humiliate them. The people are condemned to untold misfortune and suffering. That abject poverty rules South Korea and Korea is still divided comes from U.S. occupation of South Korea.

Washington has rejected the repeated proposals of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and unification of the country by the Korean people themselves without any outside interference on a democratic principle. U.S. occupation of South Korea is blocking the unification of Korea and it is gravely menacing peace in the Far East and Asia. The U.S. aggressive army has no reason, none whatsoever, to remain in South Korea.

U.S. occupation of South Korea is an act of aggression entirely contrary to the recognized principles of international law with regard to territorial integrity, non-interference in each other's domestic affairs, and self-determination. And it is a violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea.

The American aggressive troops stationed in South Korea under the U.N. flag must leave South Korea without delay and the U.N. should not become a tool of U.S. aggression.

Enjoying the full support and encouragement from the world peace-loving people, the Korean people will without fail drive out of South Korea the Yankee army calling itself the "U.N. army," and unify their country not allowing interference from outside.

The U.S. occupation army ships new types of weapons into South Korea for war preparations in violation of the Korean Armistice Agreement



RADIO Letter

It was in 487 A.D., it is said, that the regular postal service was introduced in our country.

Of course, everyone knows the part, an important part, letters play in our life. Through letters we share joys and sorrows with our dear ones and exchange our views on various subjects. And it has been said that postage stamps know no frontier. Indeed, letters travel far beyond the borders of one's country.

However, there is no traffic between the north and the south in Korea, the home of the Korean people, a homogeneous nation. People cannot even write to each other! And this has continued for more than 20 years.

Now the people in the North send through the radio their regards to their parents, wives, children, relatives, and friends in the South, a sort of letter over the air!

Perhaps, such a letter is only to be found in Korea.

Concerning Korea's "radio letter" a foreign newspaper writes: "... The radio letter of Korea is a tragedy of the century. Husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, who should have been together are separated in the North and the South. They cannot even hear from each other."

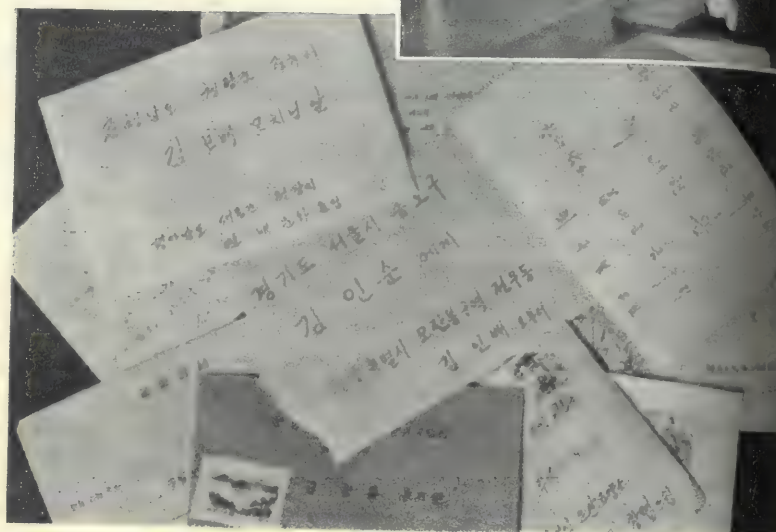
Since the inauguration of the program Radio Pyongyang has received tens of thousands of letters from its listeners to be read over the radio.

Letters were about thousand and one things. Some wanted to let their folks know about high decorations they had received; some were telling their parents in the South about their graduation from the college and marriage; some were from kids who wanted to say hello to their grandparents whom they had not seen. Still, some were for their children left behind in the South; then some written by teachers to their former students in South Korea...

It is not sure, however, whether these "radio letters" will reach the "addressees" unlike the ordinary mail. No reply can be expected, either. But just the same the "letters"

The radio letter to South Korea is no ordinary program for the announcer either

Listeners send in letters to be read on the air for their dear ones in the southern part of the land



are written, hoping that they will reach the addressees. The North-South postal service—this is a pressing question for the nation.

That is why in December 1954 the Ministry of Communications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea proposed to the South Korean authorities to hold talks for the immediate resumption of postal service between North and South. In January 1957 the Red Cross Society of D.P.R.K. proposed to the South Korean Red Cross Society that the North and South Korean Red Cross Societies co-operate in helping the people in the North and the South exchange mail regularly. Time and again our Government proposed realistic and concrete ways for mail exchange between the North and the South.

Various sections of the people in South Korea, too, are demanding North-South postal service.

However, the U.S. imperialists that occupy South Korea and the successive puppets of South Korea are

blocking it in every way, as they are bent on keeping Korea divided and turning South Korea into a U.S. colony and a military base for its aggression on Asia. They are dead set against any contacts between the North and the South. And the U.S.-Pak Jung Hi clique have brought immeasurable misfortune on the Korean people. In the North and the South separated are husbands and wives, parents and children, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends. And there is a great obstacle in the way of overall development of the nation.

But this cannot go on forever. The country should be reunited again, and soon, too.

Today the entire people in the North and the South are persistently struggling for removing the artificial barrier which is dividing the country. On the day of unification letters will reach any part of the land and the "radio letter," the "tragedy of the century," will go off the air.

A GOOD LESSON TO SMALL NATIONS

M. MOSTAFA GHONEIM

It was a hard journey from Cairo to Pyongyang through the winter of Siberia, but after seeing the new life that is rising in this country, we forgot all our sufferings during the journey and realized that it was a worthy one.

I must begin my article with a small confession. Before coming to this country we had only a dim idea about the great potentialities of the Korean people. We all admired the struggle of this nation to free their land from the Japanese yoke and to deter the American aggression, but we had not the slightest notion about the big leap that took place in the short period following the end of the Korean war.

North Korea, as we all know, faced two heavy disasters during the last twenty years: firstly, when the Japanese forces demolished all the factories before their final evacuation after their defeat in the second world war, and secondly, when the American bombs destroyed everything established by the Korean government after the liberation of the country. So Korea had to begin the work all over again from almost nothing.

But in spite of the difficulties and hard task, the great Korean people were able to achieve such outstanding results in every aspect of life in a very short period of time.

We knew during our visits to various factories that the Koreans had no machines or materials, or technicians, to begin new industries after the war, but they overcame all these obstacles and succeeded in setting up all these factories which are expanding day by day.

The miracle which D.P.R.K. achieved during the past few years is unbelievable according to every standard. It made rapid progress, particularly in the field of industry and agriculture.

Wherever we went, we saw big and well-managed factories producing everything the people need. We visited machine-building plants, and factories for

The author was a member of the journalist delegation of the United Arab Republic that was in Korea from the latter part of October 1966 to the beginning of November.



The author

producing tractors and daily necessities. We knew that all these factories were built by the workers themselves under the wise guidance and instructions of Premier Kim Il Sung.

The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea succeeded also in establishing many basic industrial branches which are now capable of producing about 90 per cent of all the machinery the country needs.

In every place we visited, we saw clearly how Korea is using up-to-date science and technology in order to exploit its natural resources, to supply the Korean people with every means of a respectable and comfortable life.

We were completely impressed when we saw new ideas and feelings working in all factories and farms and everywhere, which proves once more the originality of this great people.

It is obvious that the Korean people continued the struggle to build an independent economy with the same spirit which they demonstrated during the struggle against Japanese colonialism and American aggression.

In giant strides the Korean people accomplished in a short period what many big countries failed to

attain in tens of years. So North Korea gives a precious lesson to small nations that miracles can be done, if only they have the will and determination to achieve their national aspirations.

Everyone of my delegation admired the breath-taking achievements which Korea has made in building a healthy economy on the socialist basis. No doubt the Korean government has concentrated its efforts on the priority growth of heavy industry.

All the factories the Koreans built themselves produce enough to meet all the requirements and needs of the people, in the city as well as in the village, without importing anything from abroad.

Economic independence is a thing you cannot separate from political independence. We see now that many independent nations are yet to win real freedom, because they failed to attain economic independence after achieving their political independence.

The Government of D.P.R.K. succeeded also in solving the housing problem. We saw everywhere, both in the cities and in the country, a great number of fine buildings with all modern facilities going up quickly to offer good and convenient flats to the people.

In the field of education we noticed how the government is striving to offer an opportunity to every citizen to get his share of learning. We admired the government's recent step, which inaugurated the compulsory secondary school education. We visited Kim Il Sung University, which can be considered as one of the biggest universities in any place in spite of its short history.

Visiting the museums we got a clear and vivid picture of the glorious struggle which the Korean patriots carried on—how they under the bold leadership of Premier Kim Il Sung fought for liberation and repulsed the imperialist aggression. In these museums we could follow the heroic liberation movement almost day by day. We felt as if we were living with these heroes in the mountains and among the thickets. Different stages of the people's struggle against the enemies were well displayed and the atrocities and crimes which were committed by the colonialists and the imperialists were shown.

We appreciate the heroic struggles of the Korean people, which testify to the greatness and courage of

this old nation, because we ourselves had experienced the same struggle against the British forces of occupation for more than 70 years, and afterwards during the tripartite aggression carried out by Britain, France, and Israel in October 1956.

We support with all our means the righteous struggle of the Korean people who are working to put an end to the artificial division between the North and the South and unify the country. The American forces of aggression must pull out of South Korea immediately, and the Korean problem be left to the Korean people themselves. The U.S. imperialists have made South Korea a big military base to prepare for another aggression against the North.

But the U.S. imperialists have no right to interfere in the internal affairs of Korea. We are confident that Korea's unification will be realized in the near future, and that the Korean people will enjoy peace and prosperity after unifying their fatherland.

We saw for ourselves how the Western propaganda is making false allegations when it claims that the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is under the influence of the Soviet Union and China. We are sure now that there are no foreign troops in any part of North Korea, while the American troops are still in South Korea, and their strength is being increased with men and arms daily.

We admire the strong will and sincere determination of this great nation, and its glorious traditions and culture which go back to thousands of years, and we admire also the revolutionary zeal of the people to convert their country into a great base for democracy and prosperity.

What I have seen convinced me that North Korea does not need any foreign aid, and it has the ability to produce whatever it wants, and this is the road to real independence and self-sufficiency.

The great changes which happened in every field in this small country are clear evidences and symbols to every small nation in the world that it can achieve its targets through hard work and true determination.

I hope that in my next visit I shall be able to move about freely between the North and South in a free and unified country.



WORKING WOMEN OF SOUTH KOREA

IN South Korea women make up more than 50 per cent of the population, and their employment is a serious social problem.

It is reported that only 6 per cent of the women are working, not including those in the countryside. Even if they do work, dismissal always shadows them because of the worsening economic picture, and they are forced to perform back-breaking toil.

The *Pusan Ilbo* wrote on August 26, 1965: "Women workers work until ten in the night. As soon as they go to bed, they must report to work again. Rest they cannot have. Vacation and a good night of sleep are unthinkable. For 2,000 won—that is what they get a month—they are losing health. Their faces are pale and their limbs are moving mechanically. Such is the reality of South Korea."

Still worse. The women workers are paid no more than half of the average wages men workers get.

The story is the same with the mental workers. Women teachers are forced to conduct 10 to 12 classes a day—they work in three or four shifts. Under such circumstances most of the school teachers ruin health. Many women teachers have miscarriage from overwork.

Moreover, the women workers are insulted. The South Korean paper *Daihan Ilbo* writes: "At the terminal of every bus line in Seoul there are inspectors to search the conductresses. And the girls are made to live in their employer's house where their belongings are checked every day."

Under such discipline, the conductresses are little different from prisoners and forced to work 18-20 hours a day. And they have no privacy; they have no time for themselves, even their personal mails are opened.

It is reported that 80-90 per cent of the bus conductresses in Pusan, most of them are teenagers, have ulcers.

That is not all. Women of South Korea are sent to foreign countries under the label of "manpower export" by the Pak Jung Hi regime.

About 600 South Korean women "exported" to West Germany are nurses at hospitals and old people's homes,

or apprentices at hosiery factories, where they are overworked and mistreated.

Numerous women of South Korea are wandering about the streets looking for jobs to give their hungry family something to eat. But job is so scarce in South Korea; over 7,000,000 jobless and semi-jobless are there. When

the Yense University Hospital in Seoul put an ad for 13 girl guides, there were 2,500 applicants, including 70 college and university graduates!

Women of South Korea cannot work, nor can they display their abilities and talents. The South Korean daily *Matil Shinmoon* lamented: "One cannot see the women workers without tears" in South Korea under U.S. occupation.

Bus drivers and conductresses in Seoul holding a mass meeting to condemn the bus company owners and demand a wage hike and better working conditions



And Another INTRIGUE

RECENTLY the Japanese government drew up what it called the "third defence plan" under the good name of "national security."

As the Japanese Premier Sato stated at the defence agency meeting attended by high officers of the three services, what the plan aims is "modernization" of the Japanese armed forces, known as the "self-defence corps."

The plan envisages, first of all, equipping the ground, sea, and air forces with nuclear weapons. For instance, according to the plan, three new Nike-Hercules battalions capable of launching nuclear warheads will be set up, while the existing two Nike-Adjux battalions be armed with Hercules. In this way, by 1971 Japan will have as many Hercules as 240. Besides, four more anti-air Hawk missile battalions will be newly organized, which will give Japan six Hawk battalions in addition to three new companies for chemical warfare.

This shows clearly Japanese militarism, revived by Washington, is a full-fledged partner in the U.S.

nuclear war in Asia.

The plan does not end here. The Japanese militarists are seeing special air-borne units after the model of the U.S. First Airmobile Division in South Vietnam.

According to the Sato regime, the Japanese militarists will have these units for the "anti-guerrilla warfare."

Then the Japanese army will get more arms—the number of tanks is to increase 4.5 times, and armoured cars 4.3 times. For the additional manpower, discharged men and officers, the number of which is now reaching 300,000, are to be recalled.

Life this, the Japanese militarists are preparing for sending their troops overseas to help the U.S. imperialists who are working desperately to check the Asian peoples' struggles for national liberation, to oppose the socialist countries, and, more urgently, to give a hand to the U.S. dirty war of aggression in Vietnam.

Moreover, the Japanese militarists contemplate to raise the volume of weapons and ammunition produced

in the country to 80 per cent from the present 20 per cent of its needs. To this end, the Japanese government will spend 2,700,000,000,000 yen, 2.5 times more than the second plan, under the "third defence plan."

All these facts testify beyond doubt that Washington's plans for aggression on Asia are being materialized—Japan will be its arsenal and shock-brigade.

Yet the Japanese ruling circles are working overtime to make the world believe the "third defence plan" is for "Japan's security."

It is to be recalled Japan is forbidden to maintain any armed forces after the second world war by a series of international commitments and by its constitution.

Therefore, it is already illegal that Japan should have the aggressive armed forces under the name of "defence force." Now the Sato administration is bent on equipping its armed forces with modern offensive weapons, especially nuclear ones. Consequently, the danger of Japanese militarism against Asia and the world is not on the paper, it is very much real. In the past Japanese militarism as a partner of Hitler and Mussolini schemed to conquer many Asian countries. Today it is dreaming again its old dream of "Great East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere" with the blessing of Washington.

The U.S. and Japanese imperialists drew up recently another aggressive war plan called the "running bull operation" in the wake of the notorious "three arrows" and "flying dragon" plans. In these war plans, the main targets are the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other Asian countries. Plans are drawn up for the Japanese militarists to play an important role in an aggressive war under U.S. command, and to put Japan on a war footing politically and economically.

But the Japanese people seeking for peace and freedom will never leave uncurbed the reactionary rulers who are pressing on the war path under the U.S. baton. Moreover, should the Japanese brass hats dare to choose another adventurous path, the awakened Asian peoples will deal bigger blows to the militarists of Japan.

Washington's Unsuccessful Offensive



THE world still remembers that Washington was quite boisterous about its "dry season general offensive" (1965-1966) in South Vietnam. But it fell to the ground in face of the counter-attack of the South Vietnam Liberation Army and people.

To be sure, after that came the "rainy season offensive" in an attempt to accomplish what they had failed in the "general offensive in the dry season." The U.S. invaders wanted to lift the siege of Saigon and other principal cities and their military bases, expand their occupation in the coastal areas and in the central highlands, restore the important strategic roads that had been blockaded, link the central districts with American bases in Thailand and Laos to further escalate the Vietnamese war.

For this, U.S. President Johnson summoned Lodge, American Ambassador in Saigon, to Washington in May 1966 for a strategic talk. Soon after Washington augmented the numerical strength of its military forces in South Vietnam with 100,000 more men and bid South Korea and other satellites provide more troops. They started barbarous bombings and launched the "scorched-earth operations" in the neighbourhood of Saigon, in the southern coastal areas, and

in the central highlands. They conducted ground operations in the demilitarized zone. At the same time, Washington stepped up its criminal bombings of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, they bombed even Hanoi and Haiphong.

Yet, the U.S. imperialists failed to gain any targets they had set for the "monsoon offensive."

The South Vietnam Liberation Army held the initiative and drove the Yankee aggressors to a more tight corner. The Liberation Army and guerillas had adopted a new strategy and tactic and a new method of fighting. They, combining large-scale campaigns with detail operations, successfully conducted surprise attacks on the U.S. military bases. Large U.S. forces were dispersed, encircled, and crushed by piecemeal.

The Liberation Army in Kontum Province conducted enveloping operations to annihilate two U.S. companies and five platoons and two puppet companies and destroyed or captured a great amount of weapons. In Quang Nam Province the Liberation Army stormed the headquarters of the armoured regiment and the car pool near Da Nang. In the ten-minute battle more than 500 U.S. marines were killed, among them were lieutenant colonels, majors, and captains. Then 110 military trucks were

An American pilot who intruded into North Vietnam is captured destroyed. In one village in Tay Ninh Province, the Liberation Army and the local people fought many battles against the aggressors. Between January and September last year they killed almost 700 enemy soldiers, including 600 Americans. Then 37 tanks and armoured cars were destroyed, and 11 planes shot down.

Such is the lot the Yankee soldiers are meeting at the hands of the South Vietnam Liberation Army



The Yankees and Japanese militarists bring "Little John" and other guided missiles into Japan to prepare for a new war



The Liberation Army attacked the An Khe U.S. air base in February and June last year. Again on September 3, the An Khe air base was hit. In these attacks 149 helicopters were destroyed and more than 560 Americans were killed or wounded.

In the monsoon the Liberation Army and guerillas made a series of pinpoint attacks on the U.S. First Infantry Division, 25th Infantry Division, 1st Airmobile Division, 1st Marine Division, 173rd and 101st Airborne Brigades.

During the six months of the monsoon, the South Vietnam Liberation Army and guerillas mauled 21 enemy battalions including seven U.S. battalions, three U.S. armoured battalions, and one Australian battalion. They also crippled U.S. bases in Da Nang and Cuchi and Highway 13 and important U.S. supply routes.

Now Washington was obliged to call for more reinforcements if it was to try to maintain its precarious position.

The number of American casualties exceeds that of the Saigon puppet troops. In the first six months last year, some 50,000 Saigon soldiers deserted. U.S. colonial rule in South Vietnam is on the verge of total collapse.

However, the United States, instead of drawing lessons from its ignominious defeat, is bent on starting another "dry season offensive" (1966-1967). To this end, they are bringing in more men and weapons from the U.S. and their satellite countries.

No force on earth, however, can subdue the heroic Vietnamese people who have risen up in the righteous struggle. Should the U.S. imperialists continue to escalate the war, they will certainly face a more powerful counter-attack by the peoples of Vietnam and other socialist countries and the peace-loving people of the world.

The Vietnamese people will surely thwart any offensive of the enemy and drive out the U.S. aggressors from their country.

THE WORLD IS WITH THE VIETNAMESE

THE world's eye is on Vietnam.

Washington is escalating its dirty war; as of the end of last year the number of U.S. troops in South Vietnam already reached nearly 400,000 and its satellite countries are sending more men. It is reported that the Pentagon soon will have 500,000 men in South Vietnam. The Johnson administration is forcing more men to the army, and is spending a large sum of money. The U.S. war industries have been expanded, and every new type of arms is rushed to South Vietnam. The criminal U.S. bombing of North Vietnam has been stepped up all the more, now Washington is saying its foot-soldiers will invade the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

Last October the heads of the U.S. satellite countries that take part in Washington's aggression in Vietnam met in Manila, and Johnson visited these areas. The world knows what this Manila Conference discussed. Washington and its satellites laid down the plans to "escalate the war," to intensify aggression and to drive the war chariot with a greater fury.

But nothing has daunted the Vietnamese people. Nothing ever will. The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people is moving on relentlessly to crush the enemy, liberate the South, defend the North, and unify the country.

The South Vietnam National Liberation Front has liberated four-fifths of South

Vietnam and two-thirds of its population. It holds the initiative on the front; it has made the enemy's superior air force helpless, and smashed all offensives. The North Vietnamese people are valorously meeting the challenge of U.S. air pirates—by the end of last year more than 1,600 U.S. planes were shot down over the territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

The entire Vietnamese people are waging a patriotic struggle to repulse the invaders and win the complete liberation and territorial integrity for the nation.

U.S. invasion of Vietnam is an act of aggression not only against Vietnam but also against the socialist camp, a challenge to the national-liberation movement, and a threat to peace in Asia and the world. The Vietnamese people are fighting for their country's liberation and independence, for the defence of the socialist camp, and for the preservation of peace in Asia and the world. Their arduous struggle is linked with the common cause of the progressive people of Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the rest of the world, who are fighting against imperialism and colonialism headed by the U.S. government, for peace, democracy, national independence, and social progress. Therefore, the world's indignation soars as the Pentagon escalates the aggressive war in Vietnam; the peoples of all countries express their full support for the Vietnamese people.

Like Vietnam, Korea has been divided into two by the U.S., and its people have suffered immeasurably. To the Korean people U.S. aggression on Vietnam is an act of aggression against Korea, and they are fully prepared to fight hand in hand with the Vietnamese people against the aggressors. All



The Japanese demonstrate demanding "Yankes, stop barbarous aggression in Vietnam!"

efforts are being made to help the fighting people of Vietnam. They have already expressed their readiness to send volunteers whenever the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam so requests.

Anti-U.S. flames are raging in all parts of the world.

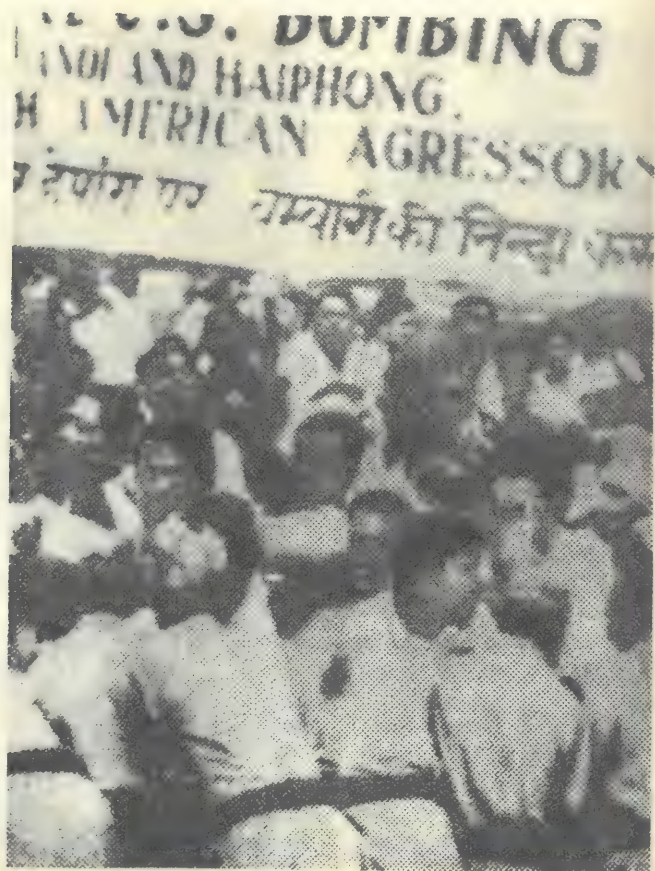
When U.S. State Secretary Rusk came to Japan last year there were huge demonstrations; then on October 21 more than 5,470,000 Japanese work-

ers staged a general strike to protest against the U.S. war in Vietnam.

The Manila confab and President Johnson's Asian and Pacific tour further inflamed the people's anger at the U.S.—in Melbourne people gave Johnson's car a baptism of paint and demanded, "Johnson, go back where you come from!" "Yanks, quit Vietnam!"

In Kuala Lumpur infuriated citizens brought down the U.S.

Citizens of New Delhi, India, are holding demonstrations against U.S. aggression on Vietnam



Angry citizens of Rome, Italy, shout: "U.S. aggressors, get out of Vietnam!"



flag and fought with the police.

Heads of governments, and public figures of the progressive countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America condemn U.S. aggression on Vietnam and demand the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Vietnam, and the stoppage of U.S. bombing of North Vietnam.

In the joint communique the Algerian National Liberation Front and the Arab Baath Socialist Party of Syria termed U.S. invasion of Vietnam as "an act of aggression against Asia, Africa, and Latin America." All the national-liberation forces in the Portuguese colonies called the U.S. aggressive war "a crime against mankind." Students of the Calcutta University burnt down the library of the U.S. Information Service and the organization of Latin American students called upon the students the world over to volunteer to help the Vietnamese people.

In Europe, too, people are expressing their support for the Vietnamese who are fighting to repulse the U.S. aggressors. Demonstrations, protest meetings, and rallies are held in

front of U.S. embassies and consulates, Johnson is burned in effigy, handbills are scattered, money is collected for the Vietnamese people. Preparations for the international war crimes trials are underway to try Johnson, McNamara, Rusk for the criminal war in Vietnam.

The whole world marked the "Support the Vietnamese People Week" and "Solidarity with the Vietnamese People Week." Then in many lands special "Weeks" are observed to express their support for the Vietnamese people. The progressive and peace-loving political parties and public organizations of various countries and international organizations denounce the American war-makers expressing their full support for the heroic Vietnamese people.

Even in the U.S. the anti-war movement is gaining momentum. Committees for aid to South Vietnam and other anti-war organizations are being set up, and anti-government and anti-war demonstrations are taking place in all major cities of the U.S.

All developments show that

Demonstrations are also held in many American cities. Photo: A protest march in Berkeley, California



the whole world is with the Vietnamese people while Washington is rejected utterly. Now Vietnam is the point where the progressive forces are fighting the reactionary forces. The frustration of U.S. aggression in Vietnam would bring about a new turn in the international situation: It would hasten fall of U.S. imperialism, the number one enemy of the world progressives, and beacon the peoples of Asia and the world to a yet stepped-up revolutionary struggle and national-liberation movement.

All the progressive and peace-loving people of the world, the situation demands, must unite and help all the more actively the Vietnamese people who are fighting against U.S. aggression. Now that Washington has escalated the war, the world people must escalate their struggle to aid the Vietnamese people. To this end, the tentacles of the U.S. aggressors must be cut off everywhere, the U.S. forces be dispersed, and the limbs of U.S. imperialism be immobilized.

There is but one way to settle the Vietnamese issue. It is the 4-point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the 5-point statement of the South Vietnam National Liberation Front. The American invaders must immediately stop their aggression and get out of South Vietnam taking with them their troops, the units of their satellite countries, and all the lethal weapons.

No peace negotiation farce of Washington will deceive anyone. The world is seeing in Vietnam U.S. aggression in all its nakedness.

The Korean people will do everything, as they have done, to help the fraternal people of Vietnam until the Yankee invaders are completely destroyed and the final victory is won. If Washington sticks to the reckless adventure regardless of the repeated protests and warnings of the world people, only complete ruin will be its lot.

As everyone knows, the Israeli expansionists are agents of U.S. imperialism. They menace the peace, security, independence, and sovereignty of the Middle and Near East countries. The U.S. has fed the Zionists of Israel to make them U.S. tools for aggression in that part of the world. Washington has abetted them in evil designs ever since Israel came to the fore as the enemy of the Arab peoples by occupying Palestine in 1947.

Up to this day the U.S. imperialists have furnished the Israeli expansionists with tanks, planes, and other weapons including missiles. The U.S. also has egged on West Germany and other imperialist powers to aid the Israeli reactionaries who are waging one provocation after another against the Arab countries that are on the path of independent development.

It is well known to all that the rich Middle and Near East, especially its petroleum, is one of the main sources for the U.S. monopolies to make their money bags bulge. Then the U.S. is not overlooking the strategic importance of this region.

Washington is backing up feverishly Israel so as to make it a "shock brigade" for aggression in the Middle and Near East; it is the aim of the Pentagon to fish in troubled waters by sowing discord among the peoples of this area and making them fight each other.

On their part, the Israeli Zionists dream to materialize their expansion programme with the help of Washington. Supported and encouraged by the U.S., the Israeli expansionists have been more provocative against the neighbouring countries. For instance, last year their planes bombed irrigation construction sites in Syria, and their men-of-war bombarded military installations deep in Syria's territory.

All this constitutes a serious aggressive act against Syria's independence and sovereignty; it is a criminal act of threatening peace in the Middle and Near East. Such aggressive campaigns of Israel must be condemned and stopped.

However, the U.N. Security Council, due to the U.S. machinations, did not take any measures to thwart Israeli aggression. It was not for nothing for the Syrian government to declare that it would cherish no illusions on the U.N.

Today Syria, Iraq, and other countries of the Middle and Near East are energetically working to defend national independence and digni-

ty, unite the progressive forces of the Arabs, and to liberate Palestine. They are struggling against the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys.

The revolution in Yemen is also progressing successfully. Encouraged by the support given by their fellow Arab people, the South Yemeni people are continuing the armed struggle besides strikes and mass demonstrations.

The trend of the events is a nightmare to the U.S. imperialists who are desperately attempting to block the advance of the peoples

U.S. TOOLS IN MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST

of this region towards progress and national liberation. In this unsavoury scheme the Israeli expansionists are playing an important role.

Nevertheless, the U.S.-Israeli aggressive intrigues cannot dampen the determination and fighting spirit of the Arab peoples who are fighting for consolidating national independence and for a new society.

After returning a blow to the Israeli invaders last year a spokesman of the Syrian Foreign Ministry declared: "Damascus of the Arabs is as heroic as Hanoi, and millions of their sons are prepared to sacrifice their lives for the cause of the Arab nation." Iraq, Kuwait, U.A.R., Algeria, and the Arab League released statements expressing their full support for this declaration. The statements read that they would come to aid Syria if there is another act of aggression against her.

The Korean people condemn the aggression of U.S. imperialism and its hirelings, the Israeli Zionists, and extend their full support for and solidarity with the Arab peoples who are fighting a just struggle for their national independence, dignity, and liberation of Palestine, against the sinister aggressors. All the peace-loving people of the world stand on the side of the Arab peoples.

It is still fresh in our memory how disgracefully the invaders—Britain, France, and Israel—suffered a defeat when they attacked Egypt in October 1956. The U.S. and its footmen, the Israeli expansionists, should bear in mind that a bigger defeat is to be meted out upon them if they, learning nothing from the history, should start another war in the Middle and Near East.

A F A C T O R Y



A scene from the music and dance drama "The Song of Furnace Builders" performed by workers of the Kim Chaik Iron Works

ART CIRCLE

Dance circle members are learning a new number (at the Pyongyang Textile Mill)



women workers; there are young people in twenties, some of them over fifty. But they all belong to the art circle, they sing well and dance well. Moreover, they compose most of the items they put on the stage.

This workshop is not an isolated case; the same is true of all the workshops in the factory. But the circle members of the insulation workshop are often invited to give performances outside the factory. All workers of the factory are good not only at work, but also artistically talented. They call their factory a "singing factory".

In the past there was a circle in the factory for a few who were interested in literature and art. But now literature and art have become very popular and every workshop has its own circles for literature, music, dancing, and play. The circle has become part of their life.

Until 1965 there had been an art school in the factory, which had done much good for popularizing art among the workers. There were four sessions, each lasting five to six months. It produced some 200 graduates who are now taking the lead in the cultural activities of the workers.

Every number on the programme won the audience's approval.

In particular a soprano named Suk Myung Ai was highly acclaimed; she had to sing encores.

A folk instrumental ensemble and solos were also very well received.

The performance was closed with a thirty-member chorus.

The insulation workshop is a big one with many men and

women workers; there are young people in twenties, some of them over fifty. But they all belong to the art circle, they sing well and dance well. Moreover, they compose most of the items they put on the stage.

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After work, workers go to watch some movies or plays. Then some get together to write new works or practise on some instruments. The factory has a clubhouse and various sorts of instruments. Then there are some who help the workers with their cultural activity.

Most of the items created by the workers are on their life and work. Many of them are written collectively, but there are some individual works, too.

Outstanding among them was the twelve metal workers' chorus—they are all over fifty years old—that sang songs composed by themselves.

One time at the beginning of last year the *Rodong Shinmoon*, the Party's organ, carried verses written by the workers of the factory. The *Pyongyang Daily* and many other newspapers and magazines also printed works of circle members of this factory, such as, poetries, stories, plays, choral pieces, dances, orchestra pieces, sketches, skits, etc.

Every year the workers of the factory put their works on the stage, and many of their works appeared in publications.

The girl singer Suk Myung Ai, a worker of the factory, says: "We are happy over our work and cultural activity. Labour and art are inseparable parts of our life. The Government guarantees all favourable conditions for us to rest and lead a cultured life. Singing



Workers of the Shineuijoo Textile Mill skillfully handle national instruments, too

and dancing is our life. All this is thanks to our good social system. I sing of my happy life."

In South Korea

DANGEROUS RAILWAY

Train accidents occur almost every day in South Korea.

The Radio Culture of South Korea reported recently of a railway accident that had taken place between Nyungwol and Yundang in Kangwon Province, where 61 persons were killed or wounded, and three locomotives smashed completely. Similar accidents are in other regions too.

According to the official report of the South Korean railway ministry, there were some 3,900 cases of railway accidents between January and November last year—there were 18 collisions, 83 track-jumpings, and 256 disconnections. Altogether more than 1,300 were killed or seriously wounded. This figure meant a 40 per cent rise over the corresponding period of the preceding year.

The repair work proceeds at a snail's pace when an accident occurs, at least a week.

THE 1894 PEASANT WAR

RIM KWANG CHUL

WITH the failure of the 1884 coup, the Japanese militarists bullied the feudal Korean government into accepting the aggressive "Hansung Agreement," besides demanding a large sum of reparations for the alleged damage the Japanese legation and merchants in Seoul had suffered.

This was a prelude to the intensified Japanese economic pillage in Korea.

In total disregard of the stipulations of the agreement and the laws of the Korean government, Japanese merchants freely moving about in all parts of the land swindled the peasants out of their produce such as rice, beans, and what not. The amount of agricultural produce the Japanese plundered between 1891 and 1893 was nearly 13 times over the six years starting from 1877. Then they raked in a fortune from selling British fabrics and other foreign goods, not to speak of cheap Japanese products.

In the meantime, "missionaries," "teachers," and "medical doctors" poured in from America, who disguising themselves as "friends" acquired rights in many parts of Korea. Incredible as it may seem, these God-fearing Americans even kidnapped Korean children and sold them for servants.

All this economic aggression from without worsened the crisis of the Korean feudal society. One peasant revolt after another took place. In 1893-1894, even according to the official data, there were 19 big revolts of the peasantry. And there was a riot against the Americans in Seoul in 1888.

It was during this period that a new national religious movement appeared, which is called "Donghak" in Korea's history. Particularly, noteworthy was the fact that the new movement saw ardent support among the rebellious peasants, and it spread rapidly.

All this showed that the Li Dynasty outlived its life and the feudal regime was shaken to its very foundations, and the demand of the people for a new society became an irresistible force.

In January 1894 a peasant insurrection broke out in the southwestern part of the Korean peninsula. The beginning was a peasants' petition asking for the lessening of the exorbitant tax burden imposed by the magistrate of a county. But the official rejecting the grievance of the peasants chose to use force. The peasants were

mercilessly suppressed. Now the enraged peasants, several hundreds in number, stormed the magistrate's office, drove him out, opened the gates of the dungeon, and seized the armoury to get weapons and arm themselves.

The insurrection was led by Jun Bong Joon, a learned man who had deep confidence and respect of the local inhabitants. Under his guidance, the armed peasants took over a big granary nearby and distributed grains among the people. Jun Bong Joon called upon the peasants to fight against the feudal rulers.

Besides, he appealed to the peasants of the neighbouring areas, through the "Donghak" organizations: they too should rise up and expel the foreign invaders, overthrow the incapable, despotic feudal rulers, and save the country from ruin. In response to this appeal a great number of peasants came together from many parts of the country. Jun Bong Joon organized the peasants, there were several thousands of them, into an army, and started to bring down feudal bureaucrats in different places. Gradually the peasant insurrection gained more strength.

Upset by the turn of events, the governor of Julla Province ordered out all the troops at his disposal to fight the peasant army. However, Jun Bong Joon and his peasant army attacked the camping ground of the government force by surprise at midnight, and wiped it out.

As soon as this news spread, peasants revolted throughout the country, and the feudal regime almost stopped functioning.

In April, the government dispatched hurriedly a big force in its attempt to quell the peasants—units of the regular army armed with new weapons. But it was the tactics of Jun Bong Joon to avoid a head-on fight with the government force; instead, his army marched in southern direction, destroying local feudal elements and reinforcing their ranks with men and weapons. When fatigue overtook the pursuing government troops, the peasant army hit back at the king's army.

At one point, suddenly Jun Bong Joon ordered his army to turn round and march northward. Soon it laid siege to Junjoo, the seat of Julla Province, and took it. To Junjoo came columns of the armed peasants from all parts of the country.

It seemed the fall of the Li Dynasty was a matter of time. The panic-stricken court sued the peasant army peace while begging China for help.

Jun Bong Joon, in view of the international situation, not to provide a ground for China or Japan to interfere, decided to accept the government's peace bid on condition that the peasants' demands for reforms would be carried out. Much of the peasant army was disbanded. Jun Bong Joon started to reform the feudal system; sinister bureaucrats, local lords, traitors working hand in glove with foreign invaders were punished, discriminatory feudal caste system was thrown overboard, all debts to the usurers were cancelled, a land reform was proclaimed. They set up "Jibkangso" in local areas, which was a sort of peasants' "assembly" for administration. Thus a great movement for reform was sweeping the southern regions of Korea. However, the rotten, impotent government worked diligently in a clandestine way to squash the peasant army with the help of Ching of China.

Upon the entrance of the Ching army to Korea, the Japanese militarists who had long prepared for occupation of Korea with the Anglo-American blessing, dispatched also a large army to invade Korea. Now the Sino-Japanese war was on.

Confronted with this emergency, Jun Bong Joon called upon the peasants again—the country faced a crisis and they should come for-

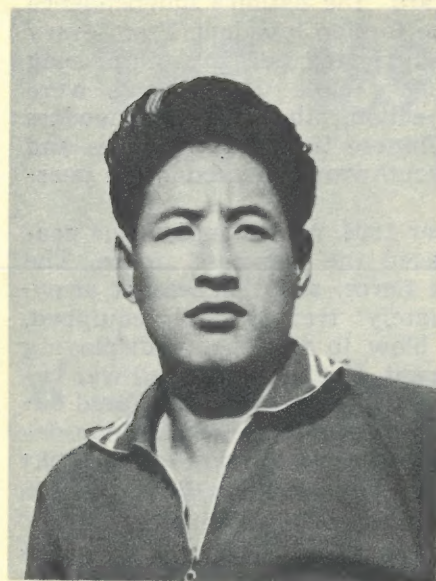
ward to safeguard the nation's independence and drive out the foreign invaders. From every corner of the land came peasants numbering more than 100,000. While the peasants were preparing for action, the Japanese invaders drove out the Chinese troops from Korea and began to move southwards to subdue the peasant army.

Late in October 1894, near Kongjoo, the peasant army engaged the Japanese troops. The battle was most fierce, and the peasant army, though inadequately trained and equipped, dealt a telling blow to the enemy displaying their patriotic spirit. But the prolonged war began to tell on the peasant army. It suffered damages, too, and, in the end, Jun Bong Joon decided to draw back once and regroup the ranks before staging another counter-attack. But his plan failed.

When the peasant war ended, the Japanese aggressors and feudal rulers massacred hundreds of thousands of innocent people, and plundered people's properties. However, the Korean people's patriotic struggle was not to be checked, not in the least, for all the barbarous suppressive measures of the enemy. Even after the peasant war fierce armed struggles against Japanese imperialism were waged throughout the country.

The resolute patriotic struggle of the people ushered in eventually the bourgeois national movement in Korea, which advanced with a fresh force.





Shin Yung Kyoo

FULL BACK

Shin Yung Kyoo

KANG CHUL GOO

SHIN YUNG KYOO, captain of the Korea national football team for the past four years, has been a celebrated football player of Korea for a long time.

It was in 1956 that Shin Yung Kyoo made his debut in the football world.

He grew up in a farm village and finished the middle school in Sariwon, a city in North Hwanghai Province. He was an electrician later.

Speaking of his profession, Shin Yung Kyoo often says the job of electrician helped him cultivate boldness, a sense of responsibility, quick judgement, and agility, which came in very handy in football playing, too.

In 1956 he was recommended by his work place to the sports school organized by the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea. Sending him to the school, the power distribution station expected that after two or three years he would return

and become a football coach for the station. But what Shin Yung Kyoo showed at the school was far beyond everyone's expectation. The instructors helped him in every way and he worked really hard to master football techniques. Soon he was an excellent football player.

When there were league matches among the football teams every year, Shin Yung Kyoo appeared as a member of the training school's football team. His performance as the centre forward won everyone's admiration. There was hardly any game in which he failed to score. He was rated as a fine prospect for the national football team.

The football experts found in him fine potentialities that he will make a powerful full back—a fine skill of deftly snatching the ball, good heading, accurate passing, a long kick, strong fighting will, and self-possession.

From a centre forward he became a full back.

Now he abandoned his dream of becoming a specialist in electric engineering and entered the sports world.

His fame as a full back came to the fore in Moscow in 1961 in the match between the Korean footballers and the Moscow Spartak team. In this game the Soviet forwards exhibited their mastery of ball dribbling. But every time they lost the ball to Shin Yung Kyoo.

After his return home from the Soviet Union he was awarded the title of Merited Athlete.

People like to call him a "reliable back," because, they say, no opponent's ball ever passes through him. The goalies say when they stand behind him, they can set their minds at ease.

He participated in scores of games with foreign teams.

Particularly his performance was outstanding in the match between the Korean and Italian teams in the 8th World Soccer Football Championships in London last year. In the 42nd minute of the first half of the game, the Italian team lost a

goal. They tried everything to recover it, but in vain. Each time their attack was checked by our formidable backs including Shin Yung Kyoo.

It is by no means accidental that Stanley Rous, President of the International Football Federation, said Shin Yung Kyoo was a world standard champion.

Shin Yung Kyoo of the Korean team, now wearing No.3 on his back, fought in the matches with conspicuous valour to evoke the admiration of the sports fans. Since he was a forward once, his judgement is quick—in what direction and how the opponents will try to break through the defence line. Accordingly, he is hard to be "fooled" by any one. But checking the opponents is only part of his job; he knows how to pass the ball to the favourable spot for his own men. Certainly Shin Yung Kyoo thrills the spectators every time with his superb skills plus fine sportsmanship.

In the match with the U.A.R. eleven held in 1963, he performed a wonderful feat. The game went into an extra frame. The Korean team lost a goal. Shin Yung Kyoo jumped out to the position of our centre forward to reinforce our offensive. There was only one more minute to go. Shin Yung Kyoo shot the ball to be hung in the net of the opponent's goal!

He has made a valuable contribution to the country's football. Last October the Government in recognition of his distinguished services awarded him the title of People's Athlete, the highest honour for the sportsmen. Now he is work-

ing hard in training so that he can demonstrate his all in the next world football championships.



A splendid feat of the Korean footballers—a scene from the match between the Korean and Italian teams at the 8th World Football Championships (second from left is Shin Yung Kyoo)

Korea's Natural Resources

MINERAL RESOURCES

Korea is rich in mineral resources. So far some 300 different kinds of minerals have been found, of which 200 are of economic value.

HYDROPOWER RESOURCES

The data show that the country is in possession of potentialities for generating over 10,000,000 kw of power. In this connection, the Amrok and Dooman Rivers are most important, then the west and south coasts.

Stamps of KOREA

In August and December the Ministry of Communications of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a set of three stamps on the country's unification and another set of four stamps on airplanes for commercial uses.

THE COUNTRY'S UNIFICATION

Our country has been divided into north and south for over twenty years due to U.S. occupation of South Korea. The stamps speak of the ardent wishes and struggle of the Korean people for the country's unification.

Stamp 1, 10 jun, depicts the courageous struggle of the South Korean people against the U.S. imperialists and Pak Jung Hi clique. "Drive out outside forces and unify the country!" is their slogan. The inscription over the Yankees knocked down by the Koreans reads: "Korea Is One."

Stamp 2, 10 jun. "No more can we

live separated!" It shows husbands and wives, parents and children, who have been separated in north and south are reunited on the military demarcation line after breaking it down. On the upper part of the stamp there is a map of Korea, a symbol of the homogeneous Korean nation.

Stamp 3, 10 jun. "To expedite the country's unification." The stamp illustrates the devoted work of the people in the North to expedite the country's unification, and the independent national economy that they have built, a material guarantee for the country's unification. There is a picture of a moving scene of mother and son meeting after a long separation.

All the stamps measure 23 x 40 mm. Monocolour. Engraved.

AIRPLANES FOR COMMERCIAL USES

The stamps speak of airplanes used for various commercial uses.

Stamp 1, 2 jun. Extermination of hairy caterpillars. Stamp 2, 5 jun. Scouting forest fire. Stamp 3, 10 jun. Geological survey. Stamp 4, 40 jun. Detection of shoals of fish.

All stamps measure 38 x 25 mm. Multi-colour. Photogravured.



FOREST RESOURCES

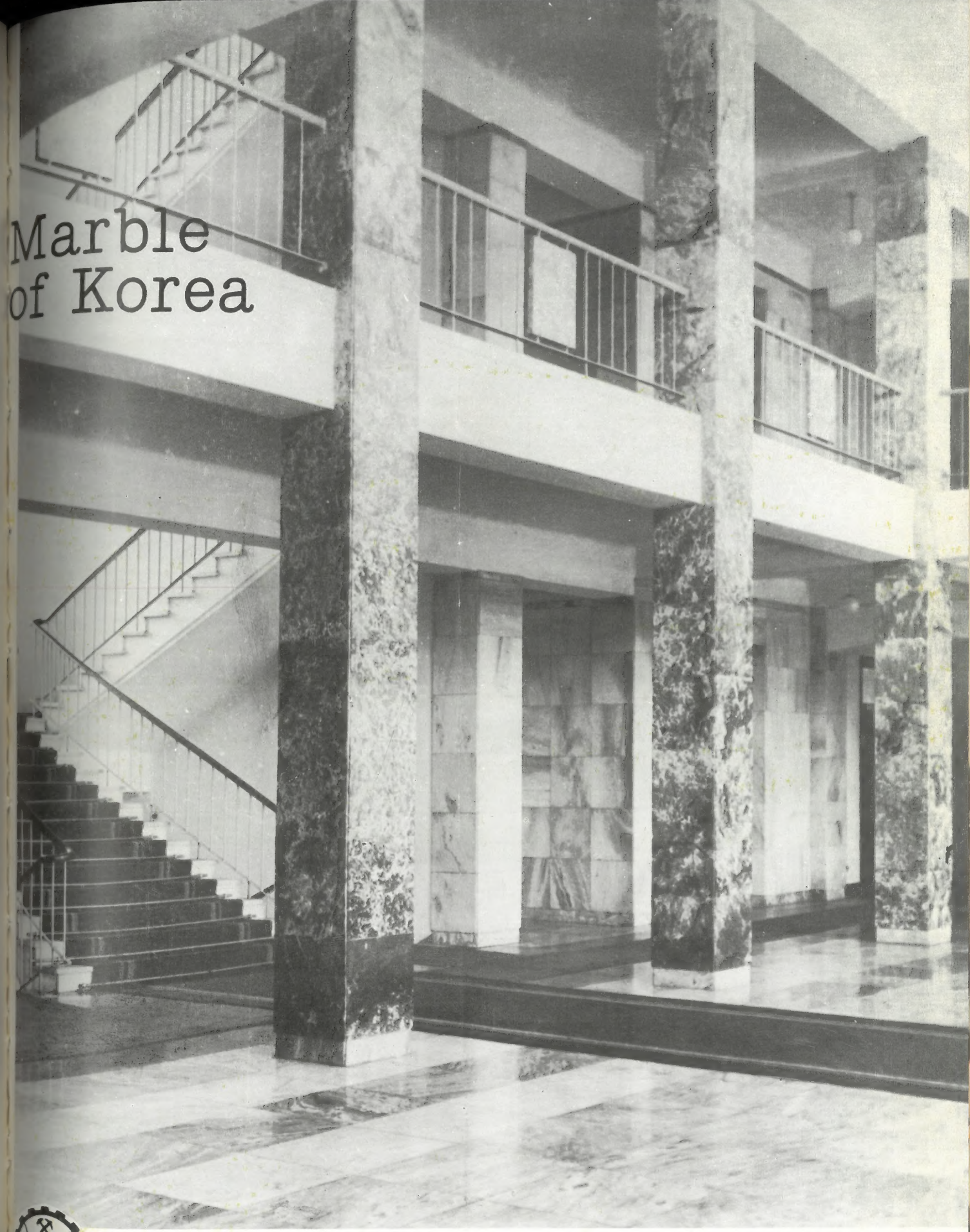
The forested area occupies 73 per cent of the whole territory, of which North Korea takes 58.6 per cent.

Trees of some 1,100 species grow in Korea; among them are 19 needle-leaved trees and 136 broad-leaved trees. Then more than 700 kinds of medicinal herbs and 450 kinds of plants for industrial use are to be found in the mountains.

MARINE RESOURCES

Korea is surrounded by seas on three sides. Hence she has abundant marine resources. Especially, the East Sea where the warm and cold currents meet attracts both arctic and subtropical fishes. There are some 650 kinds of marine products in Korea; 530 kinds are found in the sea and the rest in lakes, reservoirs, and rivers. Out of these, 120 kinds are of particular value to the country's economy.

Marble of Korea

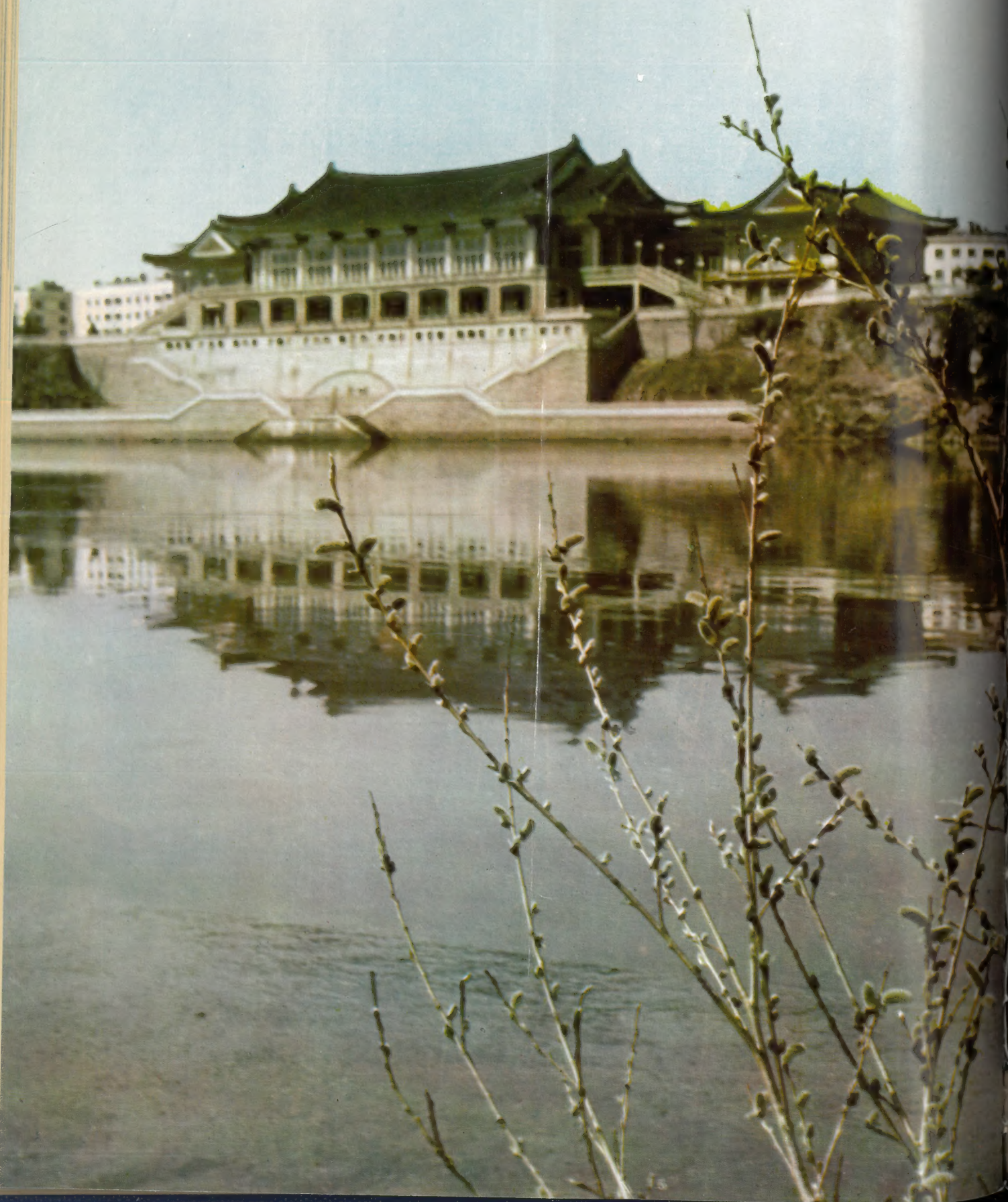


KOREA FUEL AND MINERALS EXPORT & IMPORT CORPORATION

Cable Address: "GWANGMUL" Pyongyang

Anything in this issue may be reprinted with due acknowledgement.

No. 13502



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Korea Today

PYONGYANG No. 131 1967

